

I. The Goodness of Wisdom (vv 13-14)**A.** A tale of two kings — *A poor and wise youth ... An old and foolish king***1)** Introducing the characters**a)** *A poor and wise youth***b)** *An old and foolish king***c)** Occasion for writing this**i.** Considering Solomon (1 Kgs 3:7-9)**ii.** Considering Christ**2)** One is better than the other (Psalm 37:16-17)**3)** The lesson is clear: walk in wisdom (Eccl 12:1-14)**B.** The blessing of wisdom**1)** A case extraordinary — The life of Joseph**2)** A case redemptive — Christ's humiliation and exaltation**3)** The case ordinary, in our union with Christ (Rom 6:4-9a; Psa 113:7-8)**C.** The great characteristic of folly — *who will be admonished no more***1)** This is not the cause, but the characteristic, of foolishness.**2)** Other sins which are associated with this hard-heartedness and hard-headedness:**a)** Self-Indulgence (1 Tim 5:6);**b)** Pride (Pr 14:12);**c)** Self-Sufficiency (Isa 9:8-11)**D.** The way of wisdom shown by its shadow**1)** We must take counsel, and receive admonition**a)** In Principle —**i.** The Quantity of Counsel:

- Do not overwhelm yourself with counsel

- Do not neglect pursuing counsel

ii. The Quality of Counsel (1 Kgs 12:1-11)

- Do not take poor counsel: what makes poor counsel?

* Poor counselors

* Counsel which encourages the asserting of oneself

* Counsel which encourages the serving of oneself

- * Counsel which discourages self-examination
- * Counsel which neglects the life and law of Christ
- * Counsel which neglects the actual and root issue at hand

- Take wise counsel from wise counsellors

b) In Practice**i.** Heed the Preaching of God's Word (Lk 16:19-21; 1 Thes 2:13)**ii.** Heed your Pastors/Elders/Deacons**iii.** In the Family (1 Cor 14:34-45; Eph 6:1-3)**iv.** Trusted friends**v.** Generally, those whom Providence has placed life.**2)** Three further warnings — *no more***a)** It is not enough to passively wait for counsel.**b)** It is not enough to hear counsel; you must do it.**c)** It is not enough to merely begin in the way; you must finish in the way (Pr 28:13).**II. The Vanity of Wisdom (vv 15-16)****A.** Exposition and Understanding the Text**B.** Observations on the Vanity of Wisdom:**1)** Just because something will not last, does not mean that it is not good.**2)** Just because something will not last, does not mean that it is not commanded.**3)** Total depravity does not cease with covenant kids.**4)** Common sense does not overrule total depravity.**5)** All things under the sun are, in some sense, vain.**C.** Applications concerning the vanity of wisdom**1)** The fragility of families.**2)** The fragility of churches.**3)** The need for humility.**4)** The joy of godliness, even in the midst of vanity.**5)** The need for prayer (Ex 20:5-6)**D.** The need for and blessing of the all-wise and everlasting Christ.