

**Is Wisdom the Answer?**

**Ecclesiastes 1:12-18**

May 19, 2019 – Pastor Nick Neves

**Can a person find fulfillment and purpose apart from God?**  
In verses 12-18 of chapter 1, the Preacher sees if the answer to that question can be found in the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_.

Why is it significant that the Preacher 'applied his heart' to this pursuit?  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Where do we see evidence in our world today that many believe acquiring wisdom is the key to a meaningful life?

- The reverent respect that so many have for the \_\_\_\_\_
- The emphasis put on higher \_\_\_\_\_
- The preoccupation with access to \_\_\_\_\_

Secular \_\_\_\_\_ is one example of man's desire to answer the great questions of life through reason and wisdom.  
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Despite man's great hope in his own intellect, a sincere assessment of the human mind will inevitably lead to the reality of Ecclesiastes 1:14...

***<sup>14</sup> I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.***

**The book of Ecclesiastes boldly urges us to stop trusting that which we have no business trusting and drives us back to the only One we can truly trust: God Himself.**

Why is it an 'unhappy business' to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven?  
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**There are several reasons why the pursuit of knowledge apart from God is destined to fall short:**

Wisdom apart from God can never be \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom  
(Ecclesiastes 1:14, 1 Corinthians 1:20-25)

Wisdom apart from God lacks the \_\_\_\_\_ to act on what it knows  
(Ecclesiastes 1:15)

Wisdom apart from God is limited in its \_\_\_\_\_  
(Ecclesiastes Psalm 33:13-15)

The more we know, the more we realize how limited our knowledge is...  
**Ecclesiastes 1:18** – *For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.*

And in some ways, that is a *good* thing...  
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If wisdom is not the answer, is trying to gain it a waste of time?