

7) According to vv. 25-29, a final important trait of a wise person is the

 understanding that no one has perfect or “upright” intentions – everyone has

 schemes. How has sin so affected humans (you and me) so that even our

 desires are misaligned or out of whack with God?

8) Augustine described sin as “disordered loves.” When you look at your own

 life, how have your sinful actions reflected “disordered loves,” or intentions

 that do not align with the holy will of God?

9) It can be hard for Christians to know how to live with their own sinfulness,

 let alone the sinfulness of the world. In the sermon there are three responses

 to the fact of sin. How are those responses important for a Christian (or

 church) that is trying to be gospel-centered (and not moralistic) and

 missional (and not separatistic)?

10) Read out of context or only in a surface-manner, v. 28 could have looked

 misogynistic (anti-women). What are some principles to adopt when faced

 with hard texts like this (e.g., doctrine of God, rest of Scripture, etc.)?

**Further study this week**: Rom. 3:9-26 on sin (Mon); Prov. 31 on significance of women (Tues); James 3:1-12 on the tongue per Eccl. 7:21-22 (Wed); Prov. 4 on wisdom (Thurs); and Job 38:1-40:2 on God’s infinity (Fri).

**“Wisdom’s Mirror”**

**15th in “The Good Life” Series**

**Ecclesiastes 7:19-29 pg. 557**

May 7, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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**Introduction**

**Introduction**

In this passage God beckons us to look into wisdom’s mirror to see our true self and the power of the gospel.

**The Text: Ecclesiastes 7:19-29**

1. Wisdom shows that no one has ultimate righteousness – everyone sins (vv. 19-22).

*The four aspects of sin:*

*(1) Sin is universal*

*(2) Sin is unnatural*

*(3) Sin is determinative*

*(4) Sin can be transferred*

1. Wisdom shows that no one has comprehensive understanding – everyone is finite (vv. 23-24).
2. Wisdom shows that no one has perfect intentions – everyone has schemes (vv. 25-29).

*How should we respond to the fact of sin?*

*(1) The goal is not separation but salvation.*

*(2) The goal is not moralism but more of Jesus.*

*(3) The goal is not perfection but praise.*

1. Interpretation Issue: The Bible’s portrait of women (v. 28).

*True wisdom does not pride itself in self-righteousness, but in the gospel’s saving truth: that I am a sinner saved by Jesus Christ through faith.*

**Response**

* Look into wisdom’s mirror … and see Jesus standing in your place.
1. Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
2. Ecclesiastes continues to push us to love and seek wisdom (spiritual insight and good life choices primarily from God’s Word). Is the analogy in v. 19 meant to compare internal to external: that it is much better to make good choices for yourself than to have 10 good rulers who make choices for you? If so, why is this better?
3. According to v. 20, an important trait of the wise person is the understanding that no one is righteous – everyone sins. Why is it important to have an awareness of our own sinfulness and the sinfulness of the world?
4. The fact of human sin is one of the core doctrines of the Christian faith. Read the four aspects of sin in your sermon notes. How do these facts explain who you are, what life is like, and the beauty and necessity of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
5. Read Romans 3:22b-26. How does this important text describe the nature of sin, the redemption Christ provides, and the necessity of faith?
6. According to vv. 23-24, another important trait of a wise person is the understanding that no one has comprehensive understanding – everyone is limited or finite. Why is an understanding of our “finitude” important, and how might our finitude be a means by which we acknowledge and worship God?

**Would you like to be involved in a Small group? Contact Pastor Brad at pastorbrad@hefc.net**

**Wisdom’s Mirror**

Ecclesiastes 7:19-29