

Wise man

Who is like a wise man?
And who knows the interpretation of a thing?
A man's wisdom makes his face shine,
and the sternness of his face is changed.
(Ecc 8:1)

Its Sabbath morning. My wife and I got up later and had a leisurely breakfast. I'm sitting here trying to catch up on my daily Bible studies. I've missed a few because of other things I've been doing.

Sitting here in the kitchen, my mind is wondering all around the pages, instead of sequentially following the studies text. I'm trying to read, but as I sip my mocha java blend, I think about the people on the internet Christian discussion forum, of this past week.

There is one person there who knows alot about Geology, but doesn't know The Rock - Jesus Christ!

We have another, who says she wants to know all about religion, but doesn't want to know what the Bible actually says!

Between the serious posts, we have the mockers, who take something said, twist it and pervert it, in an attempt to make the author look stupid.

And I wonder, what these people will do when faced with their final conclusion. And it makes me wonder.

Last year I received a phonecall.

"Yes?"	"Is that Mister Smith?"
"Yes?"	"Is your father Gerald?"
"He is no more?"	"He is no more!"
"Do you mean he has died?"	"Correct!"
"Okay, I'll come immediately!"	"Yes!"

Standing, staring at his lifeless body, I thought, "This is it, he has gone, everything that He was, has departed! His life is over! What happens next?"

I'm reminded of this scene, when I hear people mock our Christian faith, on the forum. Where will they be, when this event happens to them?

As often happens when I'm doing my Bible study, the scriptures speak directly to the thoughts running through my mind.

A wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, because for every matter there is a time and judgment, though the misery of man increases greatly. For he does not know what will happen; so who can tell him when it will occur?

No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, and no one has power in the day of death. There is no release from that war, and wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it. (Ecc 8:5-8)

One event happens to the righteous and the wicked; to the good, the clean, and the unclean; to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good, so is the sinner; he who takes an oath as he who fears an oath. (Ecc 9:2)

For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun. (Ecc 9:5-6)

Wisdom is better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard rather than the shout of a ruler of fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good. (Ecc 9:16-18)

But how does one warn those who are acting foolishly?

If the axe is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but wisdom brings success. A serpent may bite when it is not charmed; the babbler is no different. The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, but the lips of a fool shall swallow him up; the words of his mouth begin with foolishness, and the end of his talk is raving madness. A fool also multiplies words. No man knows what is to be; who can tell him what will be after him? The labour of fools wearies them, for they do not even know how to go to the city! (Ecc 10:10-15)

If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If we say, "Surely we did not know this," does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?
(Pro 24:10-12)

Clearly ignorance is not our best defence, better we become wiser!

(All scripture from August 30 of the Charles F. Stanley - Daily Bible)

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