

A Reading from Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

4 Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Proverbs

Attributed to _____ I Kings 3:5-14; I Kings 4:29-34

Collection of “_____ sayings”

“Although many readers find Proverbs full of “common sense” with which they can connect, there are still many difficulties in a book whose world, culture, and language are ancient and foreign. We often find ourselves listening in on an fragmentary conversation intended for someone else and filled with hidden assumptions and references¹.”

Date of book is _____.

How do we understand Wisdom?

- *The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise.*
- *The soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of such experience, knowledge, and good judgment*

¹ New Interpreters Commentary, vol. V, pg. 19

What might we need to add to that definition?

“Wisdom from God always takes into account the interest of others. It is characterized by genuineness and sincerity for both the people we know well and the strangers we may encounter².”

Wisdom is much more than memorizing or quoting Bible verses. Wisdom requires knowledge plus skill. It is not only learning to live but also being able to adapt our life to God’s pattern. Wisdom requires complete acceptance and understanding that God’s laws are good and right³.”

Gift from _____.

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”
Proverbs 1:7*

Fruit of a “_____” life

*“Rather than seeing wisdom as the fruit from seeking out sound advice, perhaps its closer to the fruit received from the disciplined and consistent pursuit of Biblical wisdom in all seasons of life. What I’m doing today is dictating the responses I will give tomorrow. Then wisdom is something that must be **planted** in your life, **nurtured** with the proper nutrients and **carefully protected and cared** for over time. It is not ‘static information’ but a dynamic living organism at work in your life.”*

Necessary nutrients?

The Wesleyan Way of Wisdom

Four components...

² Transformation Journal, pg. 121

³ Transformation Journal, pg. 122

“Wesley believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal experience and confirmed by reason⁴.”

Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Meaningless Pursuits

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

⁴ The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church [2004 edition] pg.77

Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6

“Recently a pilot was practicing high-speed maneuvers in a jet fighter. She turned the controls for what she thought was a steep ascent- and flew straight into the ground. She was unaware that she had been flying upside down.

This is a parable of human existence in our times - not exactly that everyone is crashing, though there is enough of that - but most of us as individuals, and world society as a whole, live at high-speed, and often with no clue to whether we are flying upside down or right side up. Indeed, we are haunted by a strong suspicion that there may be no difference - or at least that it is unknown or irrelevant.”

Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Ecclesiastes ch. 12:1-8; 13-14

Philippians 1:21-26