

**BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU GIVE
YOUR HEART TO.**

ECCLESIASTES 1:12-18

**Ecclesiastes 1:12 I the
Preacher was king over Israel
in Jerusalem.**

**I. I Gave My Heart to a
Frustrating Task. (13-15)**

Ecclesiastes 1:13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

**Ecclesiastes 1:14 I have seen
all the works that are done
under the sun; and, behold, all
is vanity and vexation of spirit.**

Many translate this phrase as “chasing the wind.” It is an act of futility that is frustrating. The phrase appears 9 times in Ecclesiastes.

**Ecclesiastes 1:15 That which
is crooked cannot be made
straight: and that which is
wanting cannot be numbered.**

**We cannot unravel every
mystery. There are some things
that God has made crooked,
and we cannot solve them nor
understand them.**

**Ecclesiastes 7:13 Consider the
work of God: for who can make
that straight, which he hath
made crooked?**

**II. I Communed with My Heart
Regarding My Situation in Life.**

(16)

**Ecclesiastes 1:16 I communed with
mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am
come to great estate, and have
gotten more wisdom than all they that
have been before me in Jerusalem:
yea, my heart had great experience of
wisdom and knowledge.**

**III. I Gave My Heart to Know
Things that are Contrary to
Wisdom. (17)**

**Ecclesiastes 1:17 And I gave
my heart to know wisdom, and
to know madness and folly: I
perceived that this also is
vexation of spirit.**

**IV. I Found My Knowledge to
be a Source of Unhappiness.**

(18)

**Ecclesiastes 1:18 For in much
wisdom is much grief: and he
that increaseth knowledge
increaseth sorrow.**

**Solomon said, “If I study things
that are good or if I study
things that are bad, it all ends
up in the same place: grief and
sorrow.”**

**Contrast Solomon to the
Apostle Paul.**

Paul was a brilliant scholar who was fully capable of using philosophical arguments as proofs of Christianity.

**He did this in Athens in Acts
17.**

Yet, in Corinth, he took a simpler and more straightforward approach to contrast himself with the Greek philosophers and professional speakers.

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:1-2)

**We can gain knowledge of
politics; knowledge of cars;
knowledge of history;
knowledge of food and drink.**

**But the thing that will give us
peace is to gain knowledge of
God through the Bible, prayer
and faith.**

**Look at Paul's prayer for the
church at Ephesus in
Ephesians 3.**

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

**And to know the love of Christ,
which passeth knowledge, that
ye might be filled with all the
fulness of God." (Ephesians
3:17-19)**

**There is no end to the
knowledge of God, because
the knowledge of the eternal
God passes human
comprehension.**

**We have before us an
inexhaustible study. But unlike
Solomon's study of life, our
study of God will bring peace
rather than vexation of spirit!**