**Series: Soul Search**

**Today: Wiser is Better**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman, Senior Minister**

Key Words in Ecclesiastes

Meaningless

Under the sun

Wisdom (latter half)

Wisdom is skilled, Godly action in the realities of life.

“Wisdom is thinking what God thinks, feeling what God feels, and doing what God says with a humble heart by the Spirit’s power.”

**1. Four Traits of the Wise (Ecclesiastes 9)**

**A. Face Mortality**

*So I reflected on all this and concluded that the righteous and the wise and what they do are in God’s hands, but no one knows whether love or hate awaits them.****2****All share a common destiny—the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not.*

*As it is with the good,
    so with the sinful;
as it is with those who take oaths,
    so with those who are afraid to take them.*

***3****This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of people, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead.****4****Anyone who is among the living has hope—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!*

***5****For the living know that they will die,
    but the dead know nothing;
they have no further reward,
    and even their name is forgotten.****6****Their love, their hate
    and their jealousy have long since vanished;
never again will they have a part
    in anything that happens under the sun.*

**B. Invest in Life**

***7****Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.****8****Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil.****9****Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.****10****Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.*

**C. Tolerate Uncertainty**

***11****I have seen something else under the sun:*

*The race is not to the swift
    or the battle to the strong,
nor does food come to the wise
    or wealth to the brilliant
    or favor to the learned;
but time and chance happen to them all.*

***12****Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come:*

*As fish are caught in a cruel net,
    or birds are taken in a snare,
so people are trapped by evil times
    that fall unexpectedly upon them.*

**D. Pursue Wisdom**

***13****I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me:****14****There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it.****15****Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man.****16****So I said, “Wisdom is better than strength.” But the poor man’s wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.*

***17****The quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded
    than the shouts of a ruler of fools.****18****Wisdom is better than weapons of war,
    but one sinner destroys much good.*

**2. Where Do You Find Wisdom**

**A. Scripture**

***2 Timothy 3:14-15***

***14****But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,****15****and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

**B. Prayer**

***James 1:5***

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

**C. Wise People**

***Proverbs 13:20***

*Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.*