

The Futility of Knowledge **Ecclesiastes 1:12-18**

Main Point:

Knowledge is important but not ultimate because what you're looking for can only be found in God.

1. Like Solomon, many look for answers through the accumulation of the world's knowledge.
2. But this is both a burdensome and futile task.
3. Because the world's knowledge doesn't have all the answers you're looking for.
4. Because accumulating the world's knowledge always leads to further sorrow.
5. Instead, you need to accumulate the kind of knowledge that matters most.

Philip Ryken “[Solomon] wanted to know as much as he could about as many things as he could ... In short, he wanted to know everything about everything under the sun.”

Romans 8:20 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* ... (NKJV)

Gordon Keddie “He has imposed a set of limitations upon us that were not always there. We are subject to a kind of discipline that keeps us down ...”

1 Kings 4:29-31 29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. 30 Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all men ... (NKJV)

Douglas Sean O'Donnell “If anyone's resume fit the job of exploring what the world had to offer with wisdom as his guide, it was King Solomon's.”

Philip Ryken “Study all philosophy, research all religion, take all the personal improvement courses, and it will still end in frustration and vexation.”

Philip Ryken “Taking both parts of the proverb together, life is what it is, and there is nothing we can do to fix it. There are so many things that we are powerless to change: people we cannot manage, problems we cannot solve, longings we cannot satisfy.”

Douglas Sean O'Donnell “People too often think that the accumulation and implementation of information ... will solve the world's problems. But we know enough history and have experienced enough life to know how foolish this proposition is.”

Gordon Keddie “A little knowledge may be a dangerous thing, but a lot of it can sometimes be downright depressing.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24a 23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me ... (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 2:12 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (NKJV)

Douglas Sean O'Donnell “In Christ we are given wisdom that *can* change reality as well as increase our joy. Why not grab hold of it now?”

Ecclesiastes 12:13 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. (NKJV)

Proverbs 1:7 7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge ... (NKJV)