

WISDOM'S ADVANTAGE
ECCLESIASTES 9:13-18

Woodland Park Church of Christ

3 June 2018

BACKDROP

Notice what Solomon has observed more than once.

- ✘ Something that has resonated with him – caught his attention and had him awe-struck.

It's not like many of his other points that he begins or concludes that this (too) is “vanity.”

*This **wisdom** I have also seen under the sun, and it seemed great to me. Proverbs 9:13*

BACKDROP CONT'D

A little city with few men in it was besieged by a great king (**with abundant resources, power and influence**) and made it difficult for the residents to conduct life.

Imprisoned it – nothing could get in and nothing went out.

Would seem that all was lost.

The odds simply were not in the small city's favor at all, which makes sense from a human perspective.

- ✘ Many times we find ourselves in **THE STRUGGLE**, facing seemingly insurmountable odds and wondering how we are going to get over the hump!
- ✘ Competing with those who have more resources, who grew up with the proverbial “silver spoon” in their mouths.
- ✘ However, one poor citizen, who exercised wisdom, delivered the city.
- ✘ Sadly, they forgot all about this man and his valiance.

Solomon surmised three things after noticing people outlast and overcome the giants in their lives.

1. Wisdom Provides a Decisive Advantage

“Wisdom is better than strength” and “weapons of war.”
Proverbs 9:16, 18

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered. Proverbs 28:26

2. Foolish, Loud Talk Means Nothing, Irrespective of Who Voices It

Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard rather than the shout of a ruler of fools.

Ecclesiastes 9:17

Many think that just because they talk loud they have something worth listening to – “NOT SO,” says Solomon.

Many think that just because someone of “importance” says something, it is worth listening to – “NOT SO,” says Solomon.

We should carefully consider and weigh what we are told.

See Acts 17:11

3. People Often Reject What's Best

Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. Ecclesiastes 9:16

Wisdom, which is of God, not heard or hearkened to and treated like dung.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and He preserves the way of His saints. Proverbs 2:6-8

LORD'S INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL

✘ Be added to the Lord's body

Hear the gospel (**Romans 10:17**)

Believe (**Hebrews 11:6, Acts 15:7**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Romans 10:10**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin
(**Acts 2:38**) or

LORD'S INVITATION (CONT'D)

- ✘ Be reconciled unto the Lord (I John 1:8-9); or
- ✘ Desire prayer. (James 5:16).

May GOD richly bless you!