

This past week we saw some of the **hottest** weather in recent memory... On days like Thursday... temps approaching 100 degrees....

Your body loses fluids so quickly that drinking lots of water is necessary to prevent your body from shutting down...

No matter what your **head** says..... your body does not want Red Bull on those days.... it doesn't want sweet tea or even Gatorade...

It wants plenty of cold, **pure H2O** ....

So imagine (right now)..its hot....you have been out working in the yard.... or playing sports.....

And you come into the house.... and your spouse... or your friend offers you three choices from which you can hydrate yourself....

- **#1 Evian**
- **#2** Glass of water from a shallow well..... smells like **sulfur**.... so thick with calcium... that it is already begun to deposit chunks on the rim....
- **#3** OR.... If you are particularly into all things **GREEN**.... you can have a bottle of recycled pond water with all the 100% natural bacteria to go with it...

Which of those do you WANT?

Well, the bottom line is ... that if you get thirsty enough.... ..... you will drink **any** of them...

But **IF** you have a **choice**.... It would be downright stupid to settle for #2, or 3 unless you have to....why not get the **purest**, most satisfying form of water your body was designed to drink ?

I want you to keep that in mind today as God speaks to us about the ONE element for which our **SOUL** thirsts.....

Because your soul has been DESIGNED to DESIRE and function on nothing less than the BEST soul food available...

We want to talk today about how to settle for nothing less than **PURE WISDOM**.

**(pray)**

*Your wisdom is a fountain of life... a bubbling brook*

**Ecclesiastes 10:1**

"**Dead flies** make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench; so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor."

The **perfumers** ointment to which Solomon is obviously referring here was the anointing oil that God prescribed for Israelite priests to make. It was made out of precise amounts of the finest ingredients.... and it was used for **consecrating** the tabernacle... the priests themselves; and anything HOLY that was to be used in worship....

The oil itself had a wonderful **odor**.... and the completed substance was considered to be both HOLY and precious....and anything it touched was then to be considered likewise **HOLY**...

here is how God said to make it....

**Exodus 30:22-25**

" The LORD said to Moses, "Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh 500 shekels, and of sweet-smelling cinnamon half as much, that is, 250, and 250 of aromatic cane, and 500 of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil. And you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil."

That **sweet** smell ... in the heat of the desert... attracted lots of **FLIES**....but the open bowl became a trap for them.... because as they dropped in to drink in the juice... their wings became too heavy to fly and they died.....

You have seen that with some dish you were making up in the kitchen.....?

If you ladies left a bowl of pudding on the counter... how many flies trapped in it ... would it take for you to throw the whole thing out?

Solomon says... that is a great analogy (in your soul) of how the foolishness of the world's thinking **FOULS** up the holiness of God's wisdom...

It only takes a LITTLE to stink up the whole batch...

"a little folly **OUTWEIGHS** wisdom and honor"

(folly = thinking that does not **fear** God as the center of all reality)

It doesn't take **much** of that.... to throw every aspect of your life into a tailspin....

**Jim Tressell** was the head football coach of the **OSU** Buckeyes for the past 10 years and has been a Div. 1 College coach for 25 years. During that span he was known as a man of **integrity** and was often a featured spokesman for FCA and

Athletes in Action on college campuses... One writer called once him **a model of straight-laced propriety...**

However, during the 2010 season... Coach Tressell allowed some **foolish** thinking to get mixed in to that 25 yr. span of trying to walk in wisdom..

Some of his star players broke NCAA rules by selling their autographed jerseys to make money.... He knew about it... and decided to lie about it... SO that they could keep playing...and winning...

One relatively small amount of **indiscretion**..... a few months of **FOLLY**.....OUTWEIGHED a lifetime of integrity...

One momentary period of worldly thinking.....**RUINED** a lifetime of walking in Wisdom...

- What would a trap like that look like in your life??
- What sort of foolish **impulses**...pass through your mind.... that you are tempted to give into?

Word of advice – Don't trust your IMPULSES.....weigh them against God's Word.

As you seek to INGEST and live out the WISDOM as we are being taught by God through His Word...

One of the biggest temptations you will have is to try and **MIX** this mentality of God's thinking....with that of popular culture....

Don't DO that! Recognize that what fallen man says is **smart**.... is foolishness to God. The two do not mix....

Sadly... it only takes a LITTLE folly... to stink up.... a **LOT** of wisdom.....

**PURE** WISDOM

### 1. Must Not Be **Diluted**.

We get mad when we discover that gas stations have watered down the liquid gold we pay almost \$4. / gallon for ....

Our cars begin to **sputter**....and some will not even start.....

Yet you have no problem trying to BLEND some of what **makes sense to YOU**... with what God says about life.... in order to come up with your own custom made religion....

Paul warned us that we can not mix God's wisdom with what man says is **cool**.... or what the world says WORKS.....

Both in WORD and DEED... we must settle for nothing less than the **PURITY** of the **real** thing....

And seek to conform our thinking and actions to it....

God's Word is meant to operate at nothing less than **full strength**....

The reason for that is twofold:

.... WISDOM is both a **tool** and a **weapon**.....

God used wisdom to **found** the earth....

And by His wisdom... the earth was created **PRECISELY** according to design....

No mistakes.... everything has a purpose.... it was **UNDILUTED** wisdom..

Likewise... if you are a new creature in Christ Jesus..... God is using His wisdom to **re-form** your thinking and your life into the image of your Creator....

Don't get me wrong... ALL of us see through a glass darkly..... No one Christian.... or no one church... perfectly interprets and much less perfectly **applies** every element of God's Wisdom which He has given us....

- But some of you **INTENTIONALLY** try to Dilute God's truth to accommodate your own selfish desires.....

The result of that is always a **HYBRID**.... a **BLEND**.... that will not hold up to the tests of adversity and temptation.....

By the same token..... God has designed His WISDOM to be a **weapon** with which you can **slice up** the lies of the enemy....

And if you intend to go to war against your sin..... taking the **EDGE** off of God's truth so that it becomes more **palatable** to society is **NOT** recommended....

A **DULL** weapon will wear you out in battle....

### **Ecclesiastes 10:10**

"If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed."

If you will trust in the **raw** power of what GOD says about you... about others... and about all of reality....in its UNDILUTED form....

You will find **SUCCESS** over the lies of the devil...

Some of you may feel all alone against the onslaught of the wicked around you....

It may seem like your enemy is Goliath and you are just a scared Israelite huddled in your tent hoping he will go away...

But God says that if you will trust in the power of the truth of His Word....

You have a **STRONGER** weapon than anything Satan and all his fellow liars and sinners have access to:

Listen to this story Solomon tells at the end of chapter 9 to illustrate that very point:

**Ecclesiastes 9:13-16**

"I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siege works against it. But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom **delivered the city**. Yet no one remembered that poor man. But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard."

**Dad's** your kids may not think you have anything **RELEVANT** to say... as you try to lead your family in Bible reading and prayer... but by being faithful to **BUILD** your family on **God's** wisdom....

- You are **PROTECTING** them... and sometimes even delivering your little flock from great disaster...

You might feel like a voice crying in the wilderness... but keep going!

As a church... we may feel like **MOST** people in Gainesville want nothing to do with the message we proclaim...

But **GOD** has designed it so that as we faithfully aim to fight the lies of the enemy in our own lives... and to help defend one another against Satan's schemes.... with God's Undiluted Wisdom....

- **MANY** in our city can be **DELIVERED** from the destroyer of their souls....

And as one wise man said.... because the Word of God is a sharp sword... you don't have to go around swinging it ....just **speak** the truth in **LOVE**...

**Ecclesiastes 9:17**

"The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.

Try this at home.....not just once... but over a period of time.....

Instead of **raising the volume** of your voice when people are not doing what you want them to.... or when they are disagreeing with you....

Prayerfully ask God for grace to gently and softly speak the **Undiluted** wisdom of God into the situation....

Solomon says that is **BETTER WEAPON**...than the SHOUTING of a ruler...

**Ecclesiastes 9:18**

"Wisdom is better than weapons of war, **but** one sinner destroys much good."

God is literally answering years and years of prayers..... as He changes lives here in and through our church family..... through the message of His gospel...

He is tearing down strongholds...and building people up in a community of love and truth... that we long to see keep on increasing.....

But the PURITY of the foundation we build on;  
.... the INTEGRITY of our LIVES matching our teaching.....  
is essential for this building to stand firm against the storms that are coming....

Solomon says "One sinner destroys much good." **One fly** in the ointment stinks up the perfume...

What he is referring to is an... **UNREPENTANT** sinner.....

There may be some of you here today... with **secret sins** going on.... that you think no one will EVER find out about....

But the Bible is replete with stories of how your sin WILL find you out....

Remember Achan.... how God was marching MILLIONS of His people into the promise land....destroying the evil pagans and their cities....

One isolated individual with a greedy heart .... decided to try and **DILUTE** the purity of God's instruction.... so he could KEEP some of the loot for himself....

And God sent a plague on the whole nation!..... thousands of people DIED... at the hand of God... because of that one man's sin....

One sinner destroys much good.

If God has pointed His finger at something in your life..... don't ignore His conviction... In the fear of the Lord... **admit** your guilt... **confess** it... and run to the cross...

**Blood** of Jesus....

Before ... it destroys the good He is doing in your family..... or in this **CHURCH**.

There is **nothing** hidden from God's sight.....

God has given you the FREE GIFT of His Son... so that we can easily RUN to the cross...and repent...when we sin...receiving the goodness of His forgiving love... so we can press on towards the PRIZE together as **one body**.

We want to build our lives and this church on Pure Wisdom..... let's keep it Undiluted....

(next bit of good news I have ...)

Pure Wisdom

## 2. Changes Your Desires

A good bit of sin in our day is being **blamed** on the way you were born.... Nearly every sin pattern in our lives has now been categorized into either a disease....a disorder.... or just a genetic predisposition....

To some degree that is **true**...

Because of the fall of man into sin.... we **are** BORN... with certain proclivities.....

Certain predispositions that incline our hearts to SIN in certain ways in response to certain things...

Some may be more **inclined** towards sexual sin..... even sexual deviation.....

Others are INCLINED towards substance abuse....and addictions

Some towards a type of anger that can lead to **murder**.....

The desires of our heart **INCLINE us** in one direction or another.....

The good news of the gospel is .... however..... you DON'T have to **stay** that way!

You don't have to settle down into our culture's LABEL for you.... as if that is your final fate....

As you TRUST in the cleansing power of Christ... and build your identity soundly on the Rock of your relationship with Him....

The power of God's truth can **CHANGE your desires**.... a little at a time....

Check out Solomon's observation:

**Ecclesiastes 10:2**

"A wise man's **heart** inclines him to the right, but a fool's heart to the left."

The right... is not some new political metaphor that was coined in the USA...(in fact I would ask you to just try and set aside any political thoughts right now – especially those about OTHER people.....

This verse is dealing with **OUR** hearts.....

The metaphor of the right and the left...is as old as ancient civilization ....

the **RIGHT** has always indicated... the most **VALUABLE** or the most **FORTUNATE** direction....

- Remember (in ancient Israel..) the FULL blessing of the right hand? When Israel (as he was dying) placed his right hand on Ephraim....(even though he was the younger of the two grandsons) and Joseph (the dad) was upset that Manasseh.....(the 1<sup>st</sup> born) had gotten the left hand...

Or consider the difference in the **right** and the **left** on the day of judgment.....

**Matthew 25:31-33**

" "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered **all the nations**, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the **sheep** from the **goats**. And he will place the sheep **on his right**, but the goats **on the left**."

If you are familiar with that passage... you know that the **BASIS** for the judgment is the type of **DEEDS** each person ....from every nation..... DID... during the course of their life.....

The deeds of mercy, compassion and righteousness.... were done by those Jesus called sheep..... they are followers of the Great Shepherd....

- Because His Word is **alive** in their heart.... the wicked desires of their hearts (which they were born with) are gradually **changed**... THROUGH the wisdom of the WORD **applied** to life....

Goats..... (otherwise known as fools) follow the inclinations of their own inherent wickedness.... so.....they go to the left.....

What is going to happen to you on the day of judgment DEPENDS on what is going on in your heart now!

**Ecclesiastes 10:2**

"A wise man's heart inclines him to the right, but a fool's heart to the left."

What does that have to do with PURE WISDOM?

The INCLINATIONS... or DESIRES.... of your heart.... are shaped by what your SOUL gets a **steady diet** of....

If you wash your mind with the PURITY of God's Truth..... allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to FOLLOW **His** inclinations... which line up with that wisdom....

INSTEAD of the wicked ones your heart naturally leads you in.....

You will be LED (by God) into green pastures... into GOOD DEEDS of righteousness.....and into the fullness of the BLESSING of God Himself...

Pure Wisdom ....is the substance your soul needs... to **CHANGE your desires**...

So you will begin to WANT to **walk** in the ways of God.... in the **RIGHT** way....

This section of your Bible that Ecclesiastes is in... is called the WISDOM literature...

Because,... much like what you will find in the rest of Ch. 10... you have **TRUTHS** about everyday life....that offer advice about them...

**Ecclesiastes 10:20**

"Even in your thought, do not curse the king, nor in your bedroom curse the rich, for a bird of the air will carry your voice, or some winged creature tell the matter."

If you are WISE.... you take that to heart.... and recognize PURE wisdom begins in your thought life..... If you allow foolishness to take root there.... by mulling over how much you **can't stand** someone....

It is BOUND to come out of your mouth! And if it comes out of your MOUTH.... it is BOUND... to become known to others...

That is NOT some saying out of the farmer's almanac.... or that somebody put on their FB page....

That's **pure** and practical WISDOM....that helps you walk in the ways of God...

Build your LIFE on that type of truth....you'll find the DESIRES of your heart pointing more and more in **One direction**...

Pure Wisdom

### 3. Points You to the City

Every single one of Abraham's family thought he was **nuts**.... when he began to obey the wise voice of God...instead of remaining in the confines of what his family deemed to be "common sense."

Like many of you.... Abraham was seeking to live exclusively by faith in God's Word. To those around him.... it appeared he was wasting his life.... he was going in the wrong direction...

#### **Hebrews 11:8-10**

"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was **looking forward to the city** that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God."

Scripture tells us Abraham knew that his ultimate destination was not yet in sight....

By faith .... He was obeying the DIRECTION of God's wisdom.... so that God could lead him where he needed to go....

As the Holy Spirit illumines the dark corners of your sin stained heart with the PURE wisdom of His Word.....

He is doing so in order to likewise POINT **you** in the right direction..... He is doing so... to keep you on the Highway that leads to Zion...

The CITY God is building for His people to inhabit forever... in His presence...

FOOLS....are not walking ANYWHERE by faith.....instead they walk by **sight**....

FOOLS ... walk according to the confines of their own understanding....

FOOLS.... get the immediate approval of a world full of fools... and it makes them feel good about themselves...

But don't listen to their boasts.... check out **the DIRECTION** of their life.....

Check out WHERE they are actually headed....

**Ecclesiastes 10:3**

"**Even** when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense, and he says to everyone that he is a fool."

Ever seen a what a **squirrel** does when he is on the road and a car is approaching at highway speed?

Try and predict which way he will go ..... you **CAN'T**.... know why?

Because **He** does not know! He jots back and forth under your wheels... first one direction then another...

THAT is the same way someone who does not FEAR God....and is not instructed by HIS wisdom..... lives everyday.....

Tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine..... or anything that SOUNDS GOOD..... he has a lot of activity... but he is going **NOWHERE**....

And in danger of being squashed by traffic.

Solomon goes on to help you distinguish foolish talk.... from Pure Wisdom...

**Ecclesiastes 10:13-14**

"The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end of his talk is evil madness. A fool multiplies words, though no man knows what is to be, and who can tell him what will be after him?"

Fools talk.... **a lot**. They start out saying something meaningless... and they keep talking until it is nothing short of CRAZY...

Try to figure out.... early on.... if someone's TALK is not based in wisdom.....

But then... don't hate them for it..... pity them....

for they have NO IDEA where they are going.....and they are grasping for straws to try and keep themselves afloat.....

They strive and work and plan.... but they find NO REST.....

Because it is only through the PURE wisdom of God.... that you find your way to the city....

**Ecclesiastes 10:15**

"The toil of a fool wearies him, **for** he does not know the way to the city."

- What HOPE can there a fool??

Thankfully.... unlike squirrels who will keep on running in whatever direction they think the nearest nut is.....

God's LIGHT can DAWN upon darkened foolish hearts.....

As you SPEAK the good news of salvation into their ears.....

You can POINT out that they are going in the OPPOSITE direction of the ONE who loves them enough to have sent a Savior....

To **RESCUE** them from their misery.....

Maybe.....in His compassion and MERCY.....

There might be some of you here this morning..... that realize you have been like a squirrel on the road....

Going in many different directions.... but you are not actually HEADED anywhere....

God has come to you....today..... through His Son.... He is inviting you to... COME and FOLLOW Him on the way that leads to LIFE....

Come and PARTAKE of the fountain of living water.....

Throw away all those substitutes.... and surrender your soul to Jesus.....

Receive His forgiving love.... His cleansing blood to wash away your sin....

And rise to walk with Him in newness of Life....

HE will come... and make sure.... you will **never** lose your WAY to the city.....

The prophet describes what HIS way looks like....

**Isaiah 35:8**

"And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray."

The Interstate system was one of the greatest inventions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.... I grew up in the PRE-GPS days.... and I used to love how ...

You can hop on I-95 and it will **TAKE YOU** to all the way to South Florida.....

Even if you exit....and get turned around.... you can look and there will be those familiar signs..... **I-95**...

If you have gotten too far away..... for there to be any signs..... you can ask anybody.... how can I get back to 95?? And they will tell you...

God's **PURE** wisdom... found here in the Scriptures..... are direction signs for your life... pointing the WAY to the city.....

They put you on the HIGHWAY.....

Isaiah says...even if you still have foolishness bound up in your heart..... you will **not** get LOST.....

Because GOD Himself is with you to be your GUIDE.... to bring you all the way home to the CITY....

The PLACE of His **presence**.

Won't you surrender your own navigation system.... and let HIM lead you into the place He has been preparing for you....?