

**Review**

1. The challenge is to grow in wisdom and strength
2. To be wise in our observation of life and its many challenges
3. Right response to people's comments

**An admission of limited wisdom**

1. The difficulty of finding wisdom  
"All this I have proved by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise"; but it was far from me." Eccl 7:23

- a) Solomon sought to prove things for himself
- b) His desire was to gain wisdom
- c) Hard to attain wisdom
- d) A candid admission

2. Limited wisdom

"As for that which is far off and exceedingly deep, who can find it out?" Eccl 7:24

- a) Solomon's wisdom was at best limited
- b) Things far off
- c) Exceedingly deep

**The pursuit of wisdom**

"I applied my heart to know, to search and seek out wisdom and the reason *of things*, to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness." Eccl 7:25

1. Application of the heart
2. His focus
3. Solomon was sharing his approach to seeking wisdom
4. Proverbs 1

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Prov 1:7

"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord,"  
Prov 1:28

## **Solomon's view of women**

### 1. View of women

- a) This was part of his understanding
- b) That came from his many wives and concubines

### 2. The wicked woman

"And I find more bitter than death the woman whose heart *is* snares and nets, whose hands *are* fetters. He who pleases God shall escape from her, but the sinner shall be trapped by her." Eccl 7:26

- a) His thoughts of the wicked woman are more bitter than his thoughts of death
- b) The danger of the heart of the wicked woman

### 3. Solomon sought to share what he had found

"Here is what I have found," says the Preacher, "Adding one thing to the other to find out the reason, which my soul still seeks but I cannot find: One man among a thousand I have found, But a woman among all these I have not found." Eccl 7:27-28

- a) He was ready to disclose
- b) He was adding one thing to the other
- c) His soul was looking for that something...the reason, which was hard to find

### 4. The truth - God made man to be upright

"Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes." Eccl 7:29

- a) This was what Solomon was looking for
- b) The truth that God made man upright

## **Lessons to be learned**

1. Recognise the limitations of our wisdom
2. The challenge to pursue wisdom in the fear of God
3. The challenge of understanding God's original plan