

what's the point?



Pastor Clay Smith

The Problem with Being Too Smart

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

No amount of _____

can straighten what _____ has bent.

Wisdom can tell you why life is _____,

but not how _____.

What's the Point?

More _____ does not equal

more _____.

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Discussion Questions

1. In verses 12-13, how does the Teacher describe his method of searching for meaning? What words or phrases stand out that show the intensity and scope of his pursuit of wisdom?
2. What do the metaphors in verse 15 tell us about the limits of human wisdom? What kinds of problems seem to be beyond our ability to fix or calculate?
3. According to verses 16-17, what did the Teacher actually gain from increasing wisdom and knowledge? Why do you think he pairs "wisdom" with "madness and folly" in his investigation?
4. Where do you see our culture's confidence in knowledge, information, or expertise today? In what ways have you personally felt the benefits-and the frustrations-of having so much information available?
5. Verse 18 says that increased knowledge can lead to increased sorrow. When have you experienced a moment where knowing more made life heavier rather than easier? How did you respond?
6. What is one area of your life where you are tempted to believe, "If I just understood this better, I'd have peace"? How does Ecclesiastes challenge-or correct-that assumption?