

“WISDOM & FOLLY IN COMMUNITY”

Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

Pastor Steve Cavallaro

I. How does the Preacher see the unpredictable nature of life under the sun? (vv. 11-12)

“the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong”

“nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent”

“nor favor to those with knowledge”

“time and chance happen to them all”

“snared at an evil/bad time”

God holds _____ and _____ in His _____.

Acts 2:22-24

Romans 9:16

James 4:13-14

“We get to lighten up. All our energy spent in trying to control and preserve our lives is next to worthless.”

-Zack Eswine

“Life is unpredictable; its misfortunes are inevitable and often inescapable.”

-Philip Ryken

“If the future is unpredictable, then we need to leave the results of what we do up to God. Still, we need to do the things that God has called us to do and then trust him to use what we do however he pleases to use it.”

-Philip Ryken

II. Does unpredictability rule out the value of wisdom under the sun? (vv. 13-17)

“a little city with few men in it”

“a great king ... building great siegeworks against it”

“a poor, wise man ... by his wisdom delivered the city”

“Yet no one remembered that poor man.”

“wisdom is better than might”

“the poor man’s wisdom is despised and his words are not heard.”

God's _____ wisdom is superior to the world's _____ folly.

2 Samuel 2:18-23

2 Kings 7:3-15

Isaiah 42:1-3

1 Corinthians 1:24, 30-31

"We should learn not to count on anything as fleeting as public gratitude."

-Derek Kidner

"No battle plan survives contact with the enemy."

-Helmuth Von Moltke

III. How does the Preacher re-affirm the unpredictability of life under the sun? (v. 18)

"but one sinner destroys much good."

Jesus' sacrifice _____ the _____ done by foolishness.

Proverbs 25:28

"How easy it is for one proud or angry man to wreck a marriage or divide a church!"

- Philip Ryken

"Men must not think that everything will always go well for them. In a fallen world, things rarely work out in an entirely pleasant manner."

- Benjamin Shaw

Digging Deeper:

1. When do you tend to rely on your skills instead of God?
2. Do you recognize wise people? How?
3. Do we tend to be a wise or foolish community?
4. How can we become wiser?
5. Why is our community dependent on the gospel to persevere?