

## **Topic: Study of Ecclesiastes: Wisdom Despised!**

Scripture text: Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:11

25 September 2016: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

1. The wisdom of God's Word is often rejected and despised, likewise for those who preach and teach God's Word. King Solomon was blessed by God with great wisdom. He wrote many Psalms and Proverbs and one would expect that people will embrace his wisdom, but King Solomon found it not to be so.
2. In v.14-15, King Solomon illustrates a story about a poor wise man being forgotten, after delivering his city from a great king. A little city was on the verge of being besieged by a great king but by God's divine providence, there was a poor man who was wise in military tactics. The poor wise man offered advice and the city was delivered. Soon after, the people forgot the poor man. In fact, they despised his wisdom and his words after they had peace in the land.
3. The first lesson we can learn is the value of wisdom. True wisdom is only based on the Word of God. The value of wisdom is better than weapons of war. From the story illustrated, we learn that even the great king's armies could not stand against wisdom. God is our strength, we must seek His kingdom first and obey His Word. By God's grace, we are more than conquerors in all situations.
4. The second lesson we can learn is that "the words of wise men are heard in quiet" (Eccl. 9:17). The bearers of wisdom often have a small audience. This is an evidence of the sinful world we are living in, which embraces the philosophies of the world, rather than hearing the wisdom of God. We see this in our churches today. When God's Word is being preached faithfully, it often does not lead to the transformation of lives. The wisdom of God is despised if His Word is not faithfully obeyed. If we do not have the right attitude towards God's Word, we may fall into the trap of "familiarity breeds contempt". We must pray for humble and teachable hearts to submit to His ways.
5. The third lesson we can learn is the power of foolishness in a destructive sense. Eccl 9:18 teaches that one sinner destroys much good. The effects of sin are destructive. We must not allow sin to control us in any area of our lives. We must seek to be wise and not foolish. When we sin, we must be quick to confess them to God and genuinely seek God's forgiveness. Seek God's Word to lead a holy life. In leading a holy life, we will suffer persecution but we believe that God is our strength and He will carry us through.
6. With eyes of faith, God will reveal His wisdom to us. Let us cry out for God's Words of wisdom, to love it, learn it and obey it. May it be a lamp unto our feet to guide us all our days.