

CHAPTER 7:15-8:9

Lesson 9

KEY VERSE(S)—

OUTLINE—

- I. **OBSERVATION:** Man Won't Always Reap what he Sows Instantly (7:15)
- II. **INSTRUCTION:** Benefit of Wisdom in Dealing with Inequities (7:16-8:9)
 - A. Wisdom Overdone is not Wisdom (7:16-18)
 - B. Wisdom Strengthens the Wise (7:19-22)
 - C. Wisdom Finds out the Reason (7:23-29)
 - D. Wisdom Makes the Face Shine (8:1-9)

KEY WORDS (Themes)—

SUMMARY—

Many of the statements in this section appear disjointed, but they summarize some of the observations he has already made in previous chapters. He sought out understanding (7:25) and added one thing to another (7:27).

Wisdom views the inequities of life realistically and soberly (7:15). It does not try to overcome them all by being overly righteous to compensate for the unfairness of life, neither does it throw up its hands and give in to wickedness because there is no use in being righteous (7:16-18). We must hang on to righteousness while we accept the fact that life is unfair and we cannot do much to change that! Wisdom gives us a more insightful view of living, more than ten noble statesmen (7:19-22). Wisdom recognizes and accepts the fact that others are not perfect—because it sees that it is not perfect either. Such a view makes us more tolerant of other people.

Wisdom seeks after reasons and causes (7:23-25). This kind of insight is far from us and impossible to obtain on our own. The way to find it is to look to God's plans and purposes (7:29). One of the greatest things that tormented the Preacher was the inability to find anyone who was worthy of praise—he could accept that wisely (7:20) or bitterly (7:26-29).

Wisdom is enlightening. Who else understands like the wise man does (8:1)? Wisdom counsels us how to walk before, and be subject to the king, and how to understand the end of even the most unjust rulers (8:2-8). The mishandling of his God-given authority will bring him into judgment over it (8:9).

QUESTIONS—

- 1) *Summarize this passage in one sentence.*
- 2) *How could a person be overly righteous or overly wicked (7:16-18)? Why might he go to either extreme?*
- 3) *What two realizations about ourselves, and our fellowman, should make us more tolerant and patient with others (7:20-22)?*
- 4) *Why is there wisdom in searching out to find “the reason of things” (7:25,27)?*

5) *Of all the things Solomon sought, what did he have a hard time finding (7:26-29)? Could Solomon really say that or was he just exaggerating (1 Kings 11:3-11)?*

6) *Answer the Preacher’s question, “Who is like a wise man?” (8:1).*

7) *How does he counsel us to act before our rulers?*

- *verse 2—*
- *verse 3a—*
- *verse 3b—*

8) *What will wisdom tell us about the king and his position?*

- *verse 4—*
- *verses 5-6—*
- *verse 7—*
- *verse 8—*

ASSIGNMENT—

Many statements in this section seem unrelated. Yet, many of these observations summarize those that the Preacher has previously made (cf. 7:27). Identify the observation found in the verses in the left-hand column—record that observation in the middle column—then record similar verses found earlier in the book in the right-hand column.

Verse(s)	Observation	Previous Verse(s)
7:18		
7:23-24		
7:23-25		
8:6		
8:7		
8:8		
8:9		

READING SCHEDULE—

Read this passage every day before the upcoming class (check the box after each day that you read the passage)

Sunday
 Monday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday
 Saturday