

Patience : Self control in adversity and conflict. (If a leader scream and is out of control all the time, you surely do not expect people around him have great performance. There will definitely be bad relationship between leader and the team. If leader shows patience, the team start to perform and the relationship starts to get better, talent gets utilized and result will be there.)

Kindness : Giving attention, appreciation, and encouragement. (Patience and kindness are very powerful combination. It makes people's potential explode. People are happier as they work harder. They tend to have a lot more friendly relationship)

Humility : Being authentic (沒有不可告人的祕密) to see oneself accurately from God's perspective, without pretense, not arrogant or boastful. True humility focus away from ourselves (不嫉妒，不自誇，不張狂，不作害羞的事，不喜歡不義，只喜歡真理) (We are confident in God's love. All people surround us will feel comfortable and confident as we are)

True humility will focus us away from ourselves. Humility is an accurate assessment of one's self that assigns highest value to God, high value to others, and accurate value to self. God has no expectation, and in fact, it would be foolish to never consider ourselves. Humility shows greatest concern for God's priorities and then concern for others and self. True humility is an immensely useful mindset and attitude that produces wisdom, reduce sin, yet expands and maintains integrity and effectiveness.



Life is all about
choice

We make 15,000
choices everyday.

We need to take the
exit now !

We have to choose to do what is not comfortable for sinful nature but what is right for ourselves, for our loved ones, for the world, and for God.

Only behavior out of character influences people, not talk.

Dwight Moody “ Character is the person you are in the dark while no body
is looking” (Always consistent, at home, church or in office)

A full life is life of characters like Jesus. That’s the only way we can be Jesus’
witness and fulfill the great commission.

Read bible and study bible

Reading bible only is more like staying at the information stage

Knowing the background and its meaning is more like staying at the knowledge stage.

Observe, correlate, ask question, meditate, and interpret is to understand the bible.

Come up with the revelation and **apply** it to our lives is to convert God's word into wisdom of our lives.

The bible was not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives
– by Dwight L Moody

We don't want to be a bible scholar, we want to be an evangelist that lives bible.

It was given to change our character and bring it into more conformity with Jesus Christ – Rick Warren

Live the Bible

“What is the best translation ?”

“The best translation is to translate word of God into your daily life”

“But I’ve got my Living Bible!”

“You ought to be a living bible! “ Rick Warren’s conversation

Study the Bible

- (1) The Devotional Method : Read a chapter, meditate, pray for revelation.
- (2) The Chapter Summary Method : Read chapter many times and write down the summary.
- (3) The Character (人物) Quality Method : Choose character quality and find the bible’s teaching.

- (4) The Biographical Method : Select a bible character and study all the verses about this person.
- (5) The Topical Method : Collect and compare all the verses you can find on a particular topic.
- (6) The Chapter Analysis method : Select a chapter and deep dive to find detail and background about every verse in the chapter.



Then I was beside Him as a master and director of the work. I was daily His delight. Rejoicing before Him always. Rejoicing in His inhabited earth and delighting in the sons of men. Proverb 8:30-31



I am here, I can see you and I can hear you, I know you are looking for me



Dad, where are you ? I want to get out of here.

Dad, can you find me ? I am lost.



I love those who loves me and those who seeks me find me
Proverb 8:17

Proverb 8: 22-31 : The universe is designed and made through wisdom of God. So wisdom is the super natural capacity that God has to create the universe out of nothing and keep it stay harmonious. Wisdom has the content of what's right, what's true and what make universe (including human being) last forever in harmony. **Proverb 3:19**

Proverb 8: 32-36 : The wisdom connects us to God and God's original goal for human being : Life, His blessing and His favor 寵愛.

Proverb 8: 15-21 : Wisdom controls the power distribution and the wealth distribution on earth. However, it's not the purpose, it's the result of sincere motivation. (V 17)

“..... Yet, because his shameless persistence and insistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. So I say to you. Ask and keep on asking and it shall be given to you, seek and keep on seeking and you shall find, knock and keep on knocking and door shall be opened to you “ (seeking should be never ending)
Luke 11:8-9

Constant reflection of our life with Holy Spirit as the mirror is the journey to the full life. Great leaders do that. (KIVA example, Wes Stafford example, Harvey Carey story, Turuman story, Aid versus trade, etc)

Proverb 8: 1-14 : Wisdom shows us what is true, what is right, wisdom is the foundation of all the power. Wisdom comes from knowledge and understanding retrieved through prudence.

Proverb 4: 5-9 : Wisdom is supreme, it gives us the best in our lives.

Supreme : The greatest in power, authority and ranks.

Proverb 1:20-33 : Warning from wisdom. Sin can be forgiven but consequence stays. Spirit (life) can be saved but incomplete life (versus life to the full) can be the consequence. Getting baptized by the Spirit is the beginning, getting baptized by the fire is the ending. Consequence at the end depends on whether we have the wisdom to go through the journey by living a full life.

Ecclesiastes : meaningless and confusing life in spiritual thirst.

Proverb : God-centered teaching based on result from reality. True wisdom.

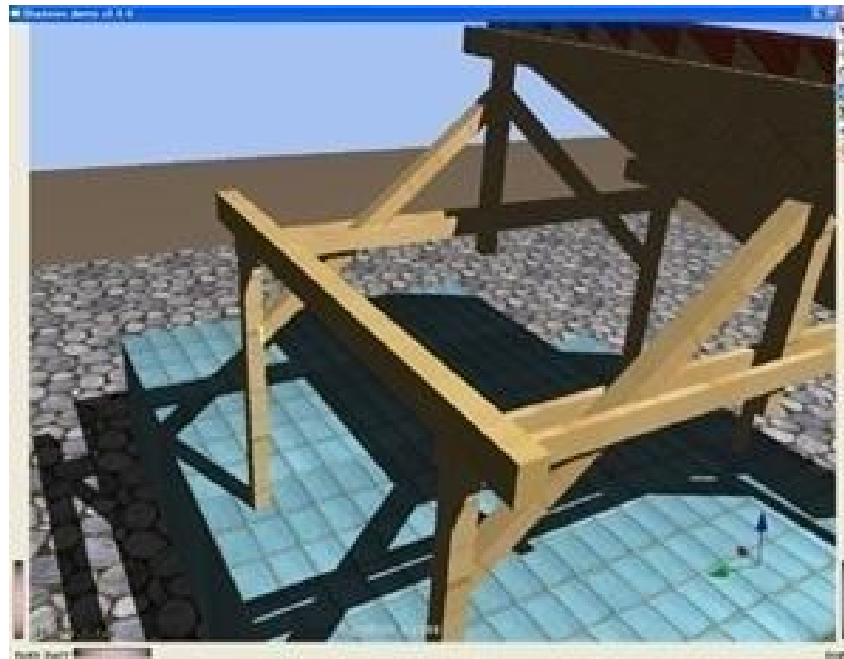
Background : King Solomon, the person with wisdom from God, succeeded in everything an average human being dreams of. However, he complained about life is nothing but vain. He was at his early 50s. He disobeyed God's instruction in later part of his life. **1st King 11: 1-11.**
He lived his life without God.

Question :

- (1) How could wisdom not help him live a fulfilling life ?
- (2) How come God did not help him out ?
- (3) Why does God put this book for us even all it has is negative view of life ?
- (4) What can we learn from Ecclesiastes ?
- (5) How would God judge Solomon's life ?
- (6) Can we use all the verses in Ecclesiastes as the wisdom for our lives ?

舊約是新約的預表和影子。It's the shadow but not the real object. However, we can see the spiritual law is in control.

Therefore, do not let anyone judge by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or Sabbath day. There are shadow of things that were to come, the reality however is found in Christ. Col 2:16-17 (example of real object crossing)



Example : Sacrifice lamb is the shadow but Jesus is the real thing.
盡己與人己愈有 is shadow of the spiritual wisdom. “Much be given
much be asked” or “To give is more blessed than to receive” are the
real spiritual wisdom (law) from Jesus.

Shadow is philosophical (soul) observation, while the real thing is
God-centered spiritual law.

Shadow can creates a lot of confusion but the real thing can clarify
the whole big picture.

Now I know in part, then I shall know fully even as I am fully known.

1 Cor 13 : 12

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in
haven. Hebrew 8:5

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-not the
realities themselves. ---- Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me ----- Here I am, it is written about
me in the scroll– I have come to do your will, O God. ----- I will put
my law in their hearts and I will write them on their minds -----

Hebrew 10

Deuteronomy 6:5 : Love Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.

Matthew 22:37 : Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

People have to labor to abide the rule to please God before the real thing (Jesus Christ). In New Testament, we have to use faith to please God. People in Old testament have to show external behavior to please God, we have to show internal commitment and faith to please God.

Living is interaction of lives, (生活是生命的互動) Living is presentation of life (生活是將生命活出來) it's about relationship with various forms of lives. Since wisdom resides in God/Christ Jesus, the ultimate meaningful living has to be based on good relationship with Jesus who is the real thing.

Since spirit gives life and living is the presentation of life, hence living is to present your spiritual fruits and let the other enjoy them. Journey of life is to bear fruits, to share the great taste of each other's fruits and to help the world to grow more fruits. Job, family, society is just the stage to present your show. Church is where God works on his people and prepare their lives to bear fruits. Any situation that does not show spiritual fruits, does not have life. It's like an empty stage without live show presented. Home, office, school, church, etc. will only be an void stage without people of good characters. Good actors are not limited by the stage. Wherever the actors are, the stage is right there and the show is on. Our stage can be in a deserted corner on earth. The missionary team to MianJu put a nice show in a couple of small (板房) while we probably have no show going on at all in our own beautiful house.

For it seems to me that God has made an exhibit of us apostles, exposing us to view last (of all, like men in a triumphant process who are) sentenced to death (and displayed at the end of line). For we have become a spectacle to the world (a show in the world's amphitheater) with both men and angels as spectators. 1 Corinthians 4:9.

Bible seldom talks about how to do our job, how to use our talents, how to make money, how to accumulate wealth, how to build education system, how to rule a country, etc. The bible only talks about spiritual growth because that's the core of human being. Actors don't get involved with setting up the stage, they get involved with the show itself. God is the producers of our lives and He assigns us to different stages at different times based on our spiritual maturity. (example of badminton ministry, example of summer mission trip by our church). Listen to what producer wants and do it according to where He moves us.

Now, let's look at Ecclesiastes from this perspective and find out how Solomon describe a life that focus on stage instead of the show. A life that feels so meaningless and so void.

Chapter 1: Powerful Solomon is trying to leave a personal mark on earth from physical and soulful point of view notwithstanding that God creates this world to be self contained from physical point of view (Conservation of energy and materials). We do not own this world, God does. We need to learn how to appreciate this world, instead of how to control this world. **Application :** What change do I have to make to shift my focus away from leaving a personal legacy in this world or personal mark in human history to avoid a meaningless life.

Chapter 2 : Since Solomon has to give up trying to accomplish something significant in this world, he turned to sensual pleasure. Accumulate anything that satisfied his sensation. However, inner voice or so called spiritual wisdom is making final judgment and he knew that he is not getting what he really wanted. Life is not about being fair from sensual accomplishment point of view. We can never look at the world from personal perspective of sensual accomplishment . **Application :** What is my inner voice telling me about my busy life ? Do I look at the world from my own perspective instead of God's ?

Chapter 3 : Solomon reluctantly gave up and came up with the conclusion that God is in control of everything in His own timing. We just passed through His grand plan in a very passive way. The best we can have is to enjoy our work because it's our lot. It's still self-centered acknowledgement of God.

Solomon keeps trying to look at the world from his own perspective and trying to justify its fairness from his own understanding. This is why his soul search ended up with void and reluctance.

Application : How can we find our job or daily work more enjoyable ? Does my job and daily work have any eternal meaning ?

Chapter 4 : Sin is the problem of human being, consequence of sin results in many tragic stories in this world. However, crying over it , complaining about it and holding the grudge in our heart are not the solutions. Only LOVE is the way to stop the consequence and have victory over Satan. God is LOVE. Luke 13:10-17, Luke 18:8 , Luke 5:20, Luke 9:1-2, John 4, John 8, John 16:33. Story of Chuck's grandson, anorexia caused by broken family. Disease : Abnormal condition as consequence of infection, inherent weakness, environmental stress. There is no fairness in the battle between the good and the evil . **Application :** Are we building good relationship with people to have good environment for LOVE ? Are we reaching out to stop the consequence of sin and claim victory over Satan ?

To win the battle against Satan :

(1) Accept Jesus and get freed from being slavery of sin. Break the chain of sin from Satan.

(2) Stop committing the sin.

(3) Don't be judgmental to give Satan chance to spread conflict and cause more sin.

(4) Use LOVE to pull people out of suffering, out of hatred, bitterness, and grudge. Help them to find spiritual self and faith in God.

(5) Help people deal with the current situation and overcome the problem and reduce the consequence of sin.

Luke 9:1-2 , (1) Spread gospel. (2) Drive away demon. (3) Heal the sick. (4) Cure the disease.

Chapter 5,6 : Solomon is trying to satisfy himself by fulfilling his own value system and his own expectation out of this world. It won't work. This world is created by God and ruined by Satan. Any value system and objective that is not aligned to God's original plan will not make any meaningful sense. An attitude of content and a heart of thanksgiving is the only way to enjoy our lives.

Application : What is bothering you because the world around you does not obey your rule and expectation ? What should you do ?

Chapter 7 : Solomon's shadow of wisdom mixed up the expectation out of earthly value system with life and God's governance. You can not put all of them together the same time. It's just like we are trying to read bible through perspective of our lives and wish to find some truth consistent and never changing for us to cling to. We won't rest assured unless we start with new life. There is no place in between.

Application : What is bothering you recently about your life ? How can you find answer with Jesus' teaching ?

Chapter 8,9,10,11 : Statement from shadow of the real wisdom . Solomon live in the world that he felt is remotely governed by God but he personally is very distant from God. There is no God-centered life for Solomon, We can not fully understand life unless we see the mystery of God that is Jesus Christ in whom all wisdom and knowledge reside. Real things that has been revealed to us will clarify the confusion. **Application** : How can we discern the shadow of wisdom from true wisdom ?

Chapter 12 : The message from inner self during the last phase of decaying physical body is calling for God and justice. （人之將死其言也善）。 **Application** : Are we doing the right thing and are we obeying God's commandment for the final judgment ? Do we have close relationship with Jesus ?

Solomon is a great example of a Christian that is not 100% committed to God. He lived with blessing of God's wisdom but fail to walk every step in spiritual law. Wisdom is not the foundation of life but is only the tool to make living.

Solomon is like all of us to certain extent engaging in a battle with the world. Quit battling, Jesus has already won the battle against the world and Satan. “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you may have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world” John 16:33

At the close of his life, being made sensible of his sin and folly, he recorded here his experience for the benefit of others, as the book of his repentance; and he pronounced all earthly good to be "vanity and vexation of spirit." It convinces us of the vanity of the world, and that it cannot make us happy; of the vileness of sin, and its certain tendency to make us miserable. It shows that no created good can satisfy the soul, and that happiness is to be found in God alone; and this doctrine must, under the blessed Spirit's teaching, lead the heart to Christ Jesus. From Matthew Henry's bible commentary.