

Solomon explored it all in search of wisdom and the opposite of wisdom—folly. From the pursuits of his mind to the pleasures for his body, all came up short and wanting. Only God can fill those gaps we find in life.

I. Solomon sought out the limits of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ 12-13

The study of knowledge is epistemology

It is a branch of philosophy that is concerned with knowledge

Philosophy is the study of how the mind works

Teachers study epistemology to understand how \_\_\_\_\_

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived I Kings 4:29-32

Jesus Himself affirms Solomon's wisdom Mt 12:38-42

Wisdom is the \_\_\_\_\_ of knowledge

He was more than a great trivia pursuit player who knew random stuff I Ki 3:16-28

Grievous task (a tragic affliction)

The pursuit of knowledge is a \_\_\_\_\_ rather than a \_\_\_\_\_

The more we know the more we realize we are finite and limited

The more we study the more we realize we don't know

It is a vicious cycle that never finds satisfaction

II. Solomon explored both empirical knowledge and experiential knowledge 14

Empirical knowledge is gained by \_\_\_\_\_

experiential knowledge is learned through doing

Solomon explored the limits of both

His wisdom was both "by the book" as well as the "\_\_\_\_\_"

He explored all aspects of the subject

III. Solomon sought to know the full extent of human intellect 15-17

Solomon made the pursuit of knowledge \_\_\_\_\_

He sought to change the culture through education, it failed miserably (we are too)

He explored it from the negative side

"the beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord" Eccl 12:13-14, Ps 111, Pr 1, 9

IV. The more we know the more difficult life becomes

18

What we don't know doesn't impact/affect us

As knowledge increases, we understand our \_\_\_\_\_ greater

The more we know, the more we want

Increasing our learning makes us crave it more, it becomes insatiable

Human collective \_\_\_\_\_ is exploding, \_\_\_\_\_ is not

V. Pleasure's limits

2:1-2

Not only did he test the mind, he tested the body

Senses are God's gifts to us to \_\_\_\_\_ the world

God has given us the ability to experience and feel

What we find enjoyable, we often \_\_\_\_\_

What we find \_\_\_\_\_, we usually stay away from

Greek word for pleasure is Hedon

Hedonism is the pursuit of what we find pleasurable (enjoyable)

Greek philosophers (Plato, Socrates, etc.) a balanced life is one between the 2

Hedonism is a life out of balance with pleasure being the driving force

Stoicism is the embrace of pain

Hedonophobia is the fear of what is pleasant

Pleasure is rarely repeatable

Sin tends to pursue \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure at the expense of \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure

We are living in a very extreme hedonistic culture

John Piper "Desiring God" Christian Hedonism is: God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. Or: The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. Does Christian Hedonism make a god out of pleasure? No. It says that we all make a god out of what we take most pleasure in.

VI. How are pleasure and knowledge combined?

2:3

Most of what we know comes through our senses

Senses become " \_\_\_\_\_ " into the true person

What do we really crave or long for or desire? See what we pursue through what we repeat