**Wisdom and Work: Theological Reflections on Human Labor in Ecclesiastes**

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1. Introduction: Wisdom Literature and the Wisdom Perspective
   1. The genre of wisdom literature
   2. The need for wisdom
   3. Wisdom and human nature
   4. Wisdom and how to live
   5. Wisdom and work
2. Interpretive Strategy in Ecclesiastes
   1. The enigma of Ecclesiastes
   2. Ecclesiastes among the scholars
   3. Dialectic in Ecclesiastes: discerning the writer’s literary strategy
   4. Texts of terror or admonitions of joy: discerning the purpose of Ecclesiastes
   5. Ecclesiastes as an apologetic: critiquing “under-the-sun secularism”
3. Wisdom and the Work of God in Ecclesiastes
   1. Wisdom literature and implicit theology
   2. Divine reference in Ecclesiastes: wisdom and the work of God
   3. The divine nature in Ecclesiastes: creation, inscrutability, and judgment
   4. God as “giver” in Ecclesiastes: the gifts of life, joy, and work

4. Wisdom and Human Labor in Ecclesiastes: A Closer Look

4.1. Human toil “under the sun”

4.2. Human labor as a wider theme in Ecclesiastes

4.3. Joy/Enjoyment/Satisfaction/Contentment as a *Leitmotif* in Ecclesiastes

4.4. Eight texts of enjoyment in Ecclesiastes (2:24-26; 3:12-13; 3:22; 5:18-20;

7:14; 8:15; 9:7-10; 11:7-12:1)

5. Concluding Thoughts on “the End of the Matter”

5.1. Fear of God, divine inscrutability, and the matter of “meaninglessness”

5.2. From Jerome to Luther: attitudes toward work in the church’s history

* 1. Protestant reform and rediscovering *vocatio*: Luther’s “Notes on Ecclesiastes” (1532)

5.4. Theological reflections on wisdom, the meaning of work, and Christian calling

5.5. Recalibrating our sense of vocation: work as divine gift and source of satisfaction