

Wisdom and Work: Theological Reflections on Human Labor in Ecclesiastes

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1. Introduction: Wisdom Literature and the Wisdom Perspective
 - 1.1. The genre of wisdom literature
 - 1.2. The need for wisdom
 - 1.3. Wisdom and human nature
 - 1.4. Wisdom and how to live
 - 1.5. Wisdom and work
2. Interpretive Strategy in Ecclesiastes
 - 2.1. The enigma of Ecclesiastes
 - 2.2. Ecclesiastes among the scholars
 - 2.3. Dialectic in Ecclesiastes: discerning the writer's literary strategy
 - 2.4. Texts of terror or admonitions of joy: discerning the purpose of Ecclesiastes
 - 2.5. Ecclesiastes as an apologetic: critiquing "under-the-sun secularism"
3. Wisdom and the Work of God in Ecclesiastes
 - 3.1. Wisdom literature and implicit theology
 - 3.2. Divine reference in Ecclesiastes: wisdom and the work of God
 - 3.3. The divine nature in Ecclesiastes: creation, inscrutability, and judgment
 - 3.4. 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
 - 5.3. 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