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

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Acton University June 20-23, 2022

1. Introduction: Wisdom Literature and the Wisdom Perspective
   1. The genre of wisdom literature
   2. Human nature and the need for wisdom
   3. Wisdom and how to live
   4. 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. Enjoyment refrains in Ecclesiastes: clues as to the purpose of Ecclesiastes
   5. Ecclesiastes as an apologetic: critiquing the meaninglessness of “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
   1. Human toil “under the sun”
   2. Human labor as a wider theme in Ecclesiastes
   3. Joy/enjoyment/satisfaction/contentment as a *Leitmotif* in Ecclesiastes
   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”
   1. The fear of God, divine inscrutability, and the matter of “meaninglessness”
   2. From Jerome to Luther: attitudes toward work and vocation in the church’s history
   3. Protestant reform and redefining vocation: Luther’s “Notes on Ecclesiastes” (1532)
   4. Theological reflections on wisdom, the meaning of work, and Christian calling
   5. Recalibrating our sense of vocation: work as a divine gift and source of satisfaction