

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Common Non-sense* (Ecclesiastes 9:13 – 10:20)

**Summary:** Recognize the danger of your foolish thinking that comes so naturally. Turn to God's wisdom to benefit your life now and for the future.

### **1. Folly overlooks wisdom's value (9:13-18)**

- Foolishness often drowns out wisdom. This happens in the workplace, at sporting events, on social media, and in every place that is not God-centered. Where have you seen examples of this, in the world and in your own life? How can we combat these foolish tendencies together?
- Meditate on Romans 12:2. According to this passage, what is a practical way in which one can avoid "going with the flow" with their eyes fixed on the truth?

### **2. Folly undercuts wisdom's position (10:1-7)**

- In the message, Rick mentioned that folly isn't best answered by folly. Yet, our political climate, especially, can often tempt us in this area – can it not? Issues that seem worth debating, and sometimes are, can cause hours of discussion leading nowhere.
- Where do you think you and your fellow church members are most tempted by this distraction? What topics stir up foolish controversies (see Titus 3:9), and why those topics?
- Read Romans 1:16. Why is the bold proclamation of the gospel of Christ more effective than a perfectly articulated debate regarding a political issue? How should that truth influence our evangelism and discussions with children, co-workers, and neighbors?
- Reconsider Proverbs 26:3-4. Why is it important to exercise wisdom when faced with the nonsensical arguments of a fool? Think about some of those cultural divisive topics of our day (e.g., gender, politics, etc.). What will a wise answer look like in addressing these topics?

### **3. Folly prevents wisdom's success (10:8-11)**

- The old axiom "Measure twice, cut once" reminds us of the importance of planning. How should we plan and work in view that God is our master? Couple that thought with the truths of James 4:13-17.
- Meditate on Colossians 3:23-24. How does good stewardship of our time demonstrate honor towards Christ in our lives? As unbelievers watch our example, how can God be given glory, especially if we are granted successful outcomes? (1 Corinthians 10:31)

### **4. Folly talks over wisdom's favor (10:12-15)**

- We must answer folly talking by turning up the volume of God's Word in our hearts and minds. List three ways *you* can grow in that, and name three ways you can help your fellowship group in the same.
- Identify two favorite passages that brought you comfort in a trial or reminded you of a profound truth about our Lord. Swap such encouragements in the group to strengthen our arsenal to fight unbelief.

### **5. Folly undermines wisdom's blessing (10:16-20)**

- Read Colossians 1:28-2:4. Where can we find true wisdom?
- Foolishness can take the form of laziness, bad stewardship of time and/or money, overindulgence, lust, etc... List ways in which these might undermine God given blessings. Do you struggle with any of the aforementioned sins? If so: 1) confess them to a brother or sister in Christ; 2) memorize scripture to fend off temptations; and 3) ask God to remind you continually that "Christ bore our sins that we might die to sin and live to righteousness" – 1 Peter 2:24.