

“Don’t Be Foolish, Be Wise!”

Ecclesiastes 10:12-15

October 7, 2026

- I. The words of the wise bring _____ but the _____ words of the fool do _____.

“Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips. At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness—and fools multiply words.”

Ecclesiastes 10:12-14a (NIV)

Wise Words:

1. The wise speak _____.

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”

Ephesians 4:15 (NIV)

“The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction. Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

Proverbs 16:23-24 (NIV)

2. The wise are _____ in their words.

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,”

James 1:19 (NIV)

“When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”

Proverbs 10:19 (NIV)

“Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.”

Psalms 141:3 (NIV)

3. The wise use words to _____ and _____ others.

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Foolish Words:

1. The fool speaks foolishness from his _____.

“At the beginning their words are folly;”

Ecclesiastes 10:13a (NIV)

“the fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.”

Psalms 14:1 (NIV)

2. The fool speaks _____ and _____.

“Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.”

Ephesians 4:25 (NIV)

3. The fool tries to make up for a lack of wisdom by the use of _____ words and _____ words.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

Ephesians 4:29 (TLB)

““When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”

Proverbs 10:19 (NIV)

4. The fool increases _____ and causes _____ by his many foolish words.

(Ecclesiastes 10:12-14a)

- II. The ways of the wise _____ in God but the ways of the fool _____ be taught.

“No one knows what is coming—”

Ecclesiastes 10:14b (NIV)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.”

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

James 4:13-15 (NIV)

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

2Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

- III. The work of the wise is an investment in _____ and it _____ but the work of the fool does not _____ and it _____.

“The toil of fools wearies them; they do not know the way to town.”

Ecclesiastes 10:15 (NIV)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not

break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)