

JOY BY THE WAY OF SORROW

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—March 3rd, 2024

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

God knows that sanctification is necessary, and sanctification very often comes through trials.

1 Peter 4:12–13—*[12] Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. [13] But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*

It is only through the sorrows of sanctification that we can experience the joys of eternal life.

Psalm 30:5

*Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.*

SUFFERING IS A GREAT TEACHER (1-4)

Suffering only finds true comfort in reality.

The inevitability of death demands that we prepare ourselves for it.

Psalm 90:12

*[12] So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

Hebrews 9:27—*[27] And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...*

WISDOM IS A WORTHY PURSUIT (5-14)

The pursuit of wisdom is the pursuit of life itself.

Proverbs 8:35–36

*[35] For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the LORD,
[36] but he who fails to find me injures himself;
all who hate me love death.”*

1 Corinthians 1:22–24–[24] *but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

One of the marks of the wise person is that he/she is very aware of their lingering struggle with folly.

- 1) Wisdom is demonstrated through meekness.
- 2) Wisdom is demonstrated through patience.
- 3) Wisdom is demonstrated through self-control.
- 4) Wisdom is demonstrated through realism.

SIN IS A TERRIBLE DECEIVER (15-29)

It is possible to be too righteous or too wise when we rely on our own righteousness and our own wisdom.

Sin keeps us from truly experiencing wisdom.

Romans 1:21–22–[21] *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Claiming to be wise, they became fools...*

Proverbs 3:7

*[7] Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.*

Romans 3:10–12

*“None is righteous, no, not one;
[11] no one understands;
no one seeks for God.
[12] All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;
no one does good,
not even one.”*

Romans 3:22–[22] *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.*