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### The PURPOSE of WISDOM

God's wisdom is a gift, helping us live the way God wants us to... in right relationship with God, people, and creation.

REFLECTING FORWARD

4

“

- For **the Lord gives wisdom**; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding – Proverbs 2:6
- For to the one who pleases him **God has given wisdom** and knowledge and joy.... – Ecclesiastes 2:26
- Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**.  
– Ephesians 5:15-17

REFLECTING FORWARD

5

### WHAT IS A PARADOX?

“

Something that is made up of **two opposite things** that seems **impossible** but is actually **true or possible**.

A statement that **seems to contradict itself** but may nonetheless **be true**.

”

REFLECTING FORWARD

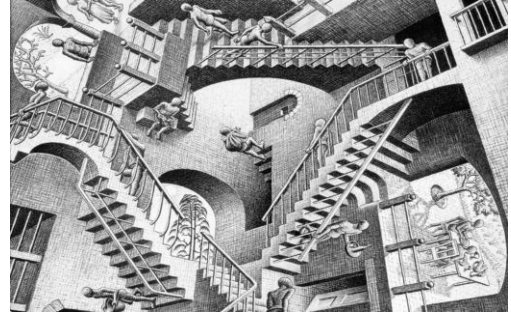
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WHAT IS A PARADOX?



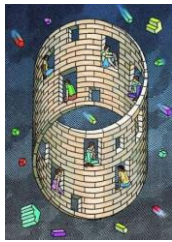
REFLECTING FORWARD

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WHAT IS A PARADOX?



REFLECTING FORWARD

9

PARADOX 1:

Like nature, wisdom works within seasons... but isn't bound to them.

REFLECTING FORWARD

10

“

3 There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
2 a time to be **born** and a time to **die**,  
a time to **plant** and a time to **uproot**,  
3 a time to **kill** and a time to **heal**,  
a time to **tear down** and a time to **build**,  
4 a time to **weep** and a time to **laugh**,  
a time to **mourn** and a time to **dance**,  
5 a time to **scatter stones** and a time to **gather them**,  
a time to **embrace** and a time to **refrain from embracing**,

REFLECTING FORWARD

11

“

6 a time to **search** and a time to **give up**,  
a time to **keep** and a time to **throw away**,  
7 a time to **tear** and a time to **mend**,  
a time to be **silent** and a time to **speak**,  
8 a time to **love** and a time to **hate**,  
a time for **war** and a time for **peace**.  
11 **He has made everything beautiful in its time.** He has also  
set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can  
fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

REFLECTING FORWARD

12

## PARADOX 2:

Wisdom is there to raise us up... but comes from humility and repentance.

13

REFLECTING FORWARD

“

- Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in **the humility that comes from wisdom**. – James 13:3
- Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but **be willing to associate with people of low position**. Do not be wise in your own estimation. – Romans 12:16
- But **God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise**, the weak things of the world to shame the strong. - 1 Corinthians 1:27

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REFLECTING FORWARD

## PARADOX 3:

Wisdom always seeks peace... but is willing to engage in healthy conflict when needed.

15

REFLECTING FORWARD

“

- But the **wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable**, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. – James 3:17
- [Wisdom's] ways are ways of pleasantness, and **all her paths are peace**. – Proverbs 3:17
- Fools show their annoyance at once, but **the prudent overlook an insult**. – Proverbs 12:16

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REFLECTING FORWARD

## PARADOX 4:

Wisdom is so valuable we are advised to trade everything we have to find it... and it is worthless without love.

17

REFLECTING FORWARD

“

- **How much better to get wisdom than gold!** To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. – Proverbs 16:16
- **The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom**, and whatever you get, get insight. – Proverbs 4:7
- **Whoever is wise**, let him attend to these things; **let them consider the steadfast love of the Lord**. – Psalm 107:43

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REFLECTING FORWARD

## The PATH to WISDOM

- **Ask God** for it!
- **Pray** often
- Read **scripture**
- Learn from the **stories & experiences** of others
- Learn from **creation** & the world around us
- Ask lots of **questions**
- **Invite input** from people you respect
- Take time to **reflect and solidify** learning
- Always consider how you can **apply what you've learned** to your life

REFLECTING FORWARD

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PARADOX 1 What season of life are you in? How can you more fully embrace this season and its opportunities? Where might God want to surprise you?

PARADOX 2 In what areas do you need to be humble before God and practice humility? Where might God want to transform you and raise you up? How can you practice humility in your relationships?

PARADOX 3 What would it look like for you to practice peace in your life this year? How can wisdom guide you in this?

Your PATH What are one or two steps you can take on your path to wisdom this year? What can apply from the message today?

REFLECTING FORWARD

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