

# Scripture

## Ecclesiastes 1:12-18(NLT)

### **The Teacher Speaks: The Futility of Wisdom**

- 12** I, the Teacher, was king of Israel, and I lived in Jerusalem. **13** I devoted myself to search for understanding and to explore by wisdom everything being done under heaven. I soon discovered that God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race. **14** I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—like chasing the wind.
- 15** What is wrong cannot be made right.  
What is missing cannot be recovered.

**16** I said to myself, “Look, I am wiser than any of the kings who ruled in Jerusalem before me. I have greater wisdom and knowledge than any of them.” **17** So I set out to learn everything from wisdom to madness and folly. But I learned firsthand that pursuing all this is like chasing the wind.

**18** The greater my wisdom, the greater my grief. To increase knowledge only increases sorrow.