

# Scripture

## Ecclesiastes 2:12-23(NLT)

### The Wise and the Foolish

**12** So I decided to compare wisdom with foolishness and madness (for who can do this better than I, the king?). **13** I thought, “Wisdom is better than foolishness, just as light is better than darkness. **14** For the wise can see where they are going, but fools walk in the dark.” Yet I saw that the wise and the foolish share the same fate. **15** Both will die. So I said to myself, “Since I will end up the same as the fool, what’s the value of all my wisdom? This is all so meaningless!”

- 16** For the wise and the foolish both die. The wise will not be remembered any longer than the fool. In the days to come, both will be forgotten.
- 17** So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

## **The Futility of Work**

- 18** I came to hate all my hard work here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. **19** And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How meaningless! **20** So I gave up in despair, questioning the value of all my hard work in this world.

**21** Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn't worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. **22** So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? **23** Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.