

THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN

**AUG
16**

ECCLESIASTES 12:9-14

DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

1. Why would Solomon compare words of wisdom to goads in verse 11 (what is the purpose of goads)?
2. Why would he compare wise words to nails (v. 11)?
3. How does Solomon sum up all that he has seen and said (vv.13-14)?

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

1. Does the conclusion of verses 13-14 encourage or discourage thoughtful planning in life, having and pursuing dreams, and enjoying rest and/or leisure?
2. Why do you think wisdom is often so hard to hear and follow?
3. Is there ever a time when a pursuit of wisdom could actually be to our detriment (consider verse 12)? If so, how or why?

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

1. Father, help us to treasure wisdom from above, and to order our lives around what you provide.
2. Guard our hearts from worthless pursuit of things that project themselves as wisdom but don't have their roots firmly established in you.
3. Teach us to fear you above all else, and trust you completely.