

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:6-15

Sing: Psalm 111:5

## Ecclesiastes 1:1

***The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem.***

Nobody can say for sure who actually wrote the words of the book of Ecclesiastes. Some hold to Solomon. Others, with good arguments, say it was someone who was a student of Solomon, a graduate of the school of Solomon, who, long after Solomon's death, expounded the wisdom of Solomon for Israel. But whoever may have written down the words of this book, one thing is for certain, and that is that the Holy Spirit himself is the Author. He is the One who inspired the writer of this book to write what he did. In other words, this book contains wisdom from above. It is a book of regeneration, which reveals to the church of all ages the wisdom which comes with regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

This book is therefore not a philosophy reasoned out by a wise man. It contains the wisdom of heaven, revealed for the church. That is why this book is called Ecclesiastes. *Ecclesia*, you may already know, is the Greek word for "church". And the man who wrote the words of this book calls himself "the Preacher" [RSV] or "The Teacher". And a preacher is someone who proclaims, or teaches the truth for the church, the gathering of all believers who seek their salvation in Jesus Christ.

The book of Ecclesiastes is written so that the church may have "the mind of Christ", as it is written in 1 Corinthians 2:16.

Isn't that what we need? A new way of thinking, a way of thinking by which we can spiritually discern the things that go on in our lives and in the world? Isn't it true, as 1 Corinthians 2 says, that the spiritual man must judge all things? And then he must judge, not according to his own reasoning and feelings, but according to the spirit of wisdom from above. That is part of striving to be renewed after the image of Christ, that we think about and judge things as he thought and judged, that we see life as he saw life. That is the purpose of this book. With the words of this book, whoever may have actually written them, the Spirit of Christ guides the church to think and judge things in the right perspective, the heavenly perspective. It is therefore good for us to listen to what the Spirit here says to the churches. For the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.