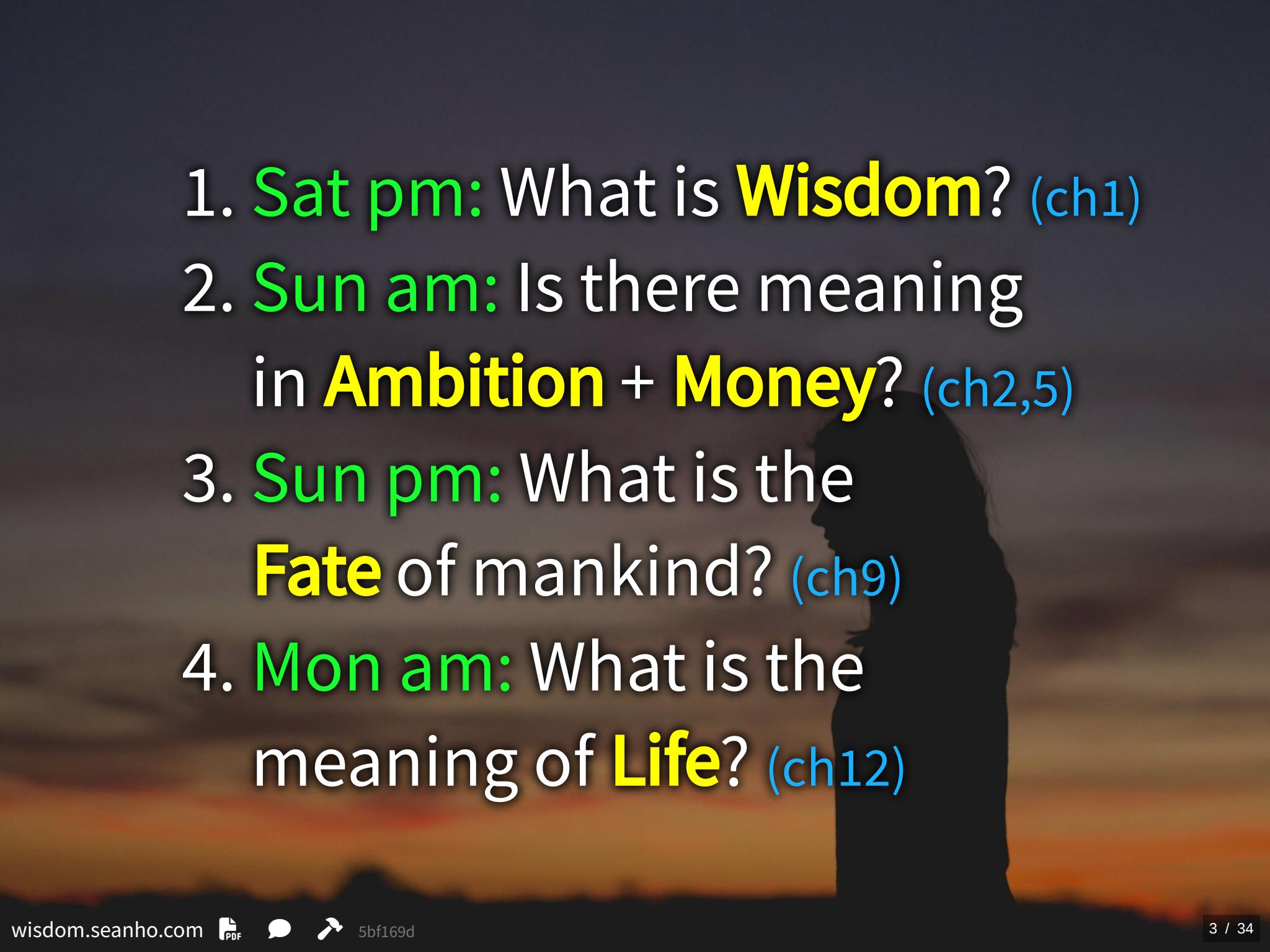


# Wisdom

## Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

The Search for Meaning (1/4)

**What is the  
meaning of life?**

- 
- A dark silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is centered against a background of a sunset or sunrise with warm orange and yellow hues.
1. Sat pm: What is **Wisdom**? (ch1)
  2. Sun am: Is there meaning in **Ambition** + **Money**? (ch2,5)
  3. Sun pm: What is the **Fate** of mankind? (ch9)
  4. Mon am: What is the meaning of **Life**? (ch12)

12 I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.  
13 And I applied my heart to seek and to search out  
by wisdom all that is done under heaven.

It is an unhappy business that God has given  
to the children of man to be busy with.

Ecclesiastes 1:12-13 (ESV) (p.1/5)

14 I have seen everything that is done under the sun,  
and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be made straight,  
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

Ecclesiastes 1:14-15 (ESV) (p.2/5)

16 I said in my heart, “I have acquired great wisdom,  
surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me,  
and my heart has had great experience  
of wisdom and knowledge.”

Ecclesiastes 1:16 (ESV) (p.3/5)

17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom  
and to know madness and folly.

I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

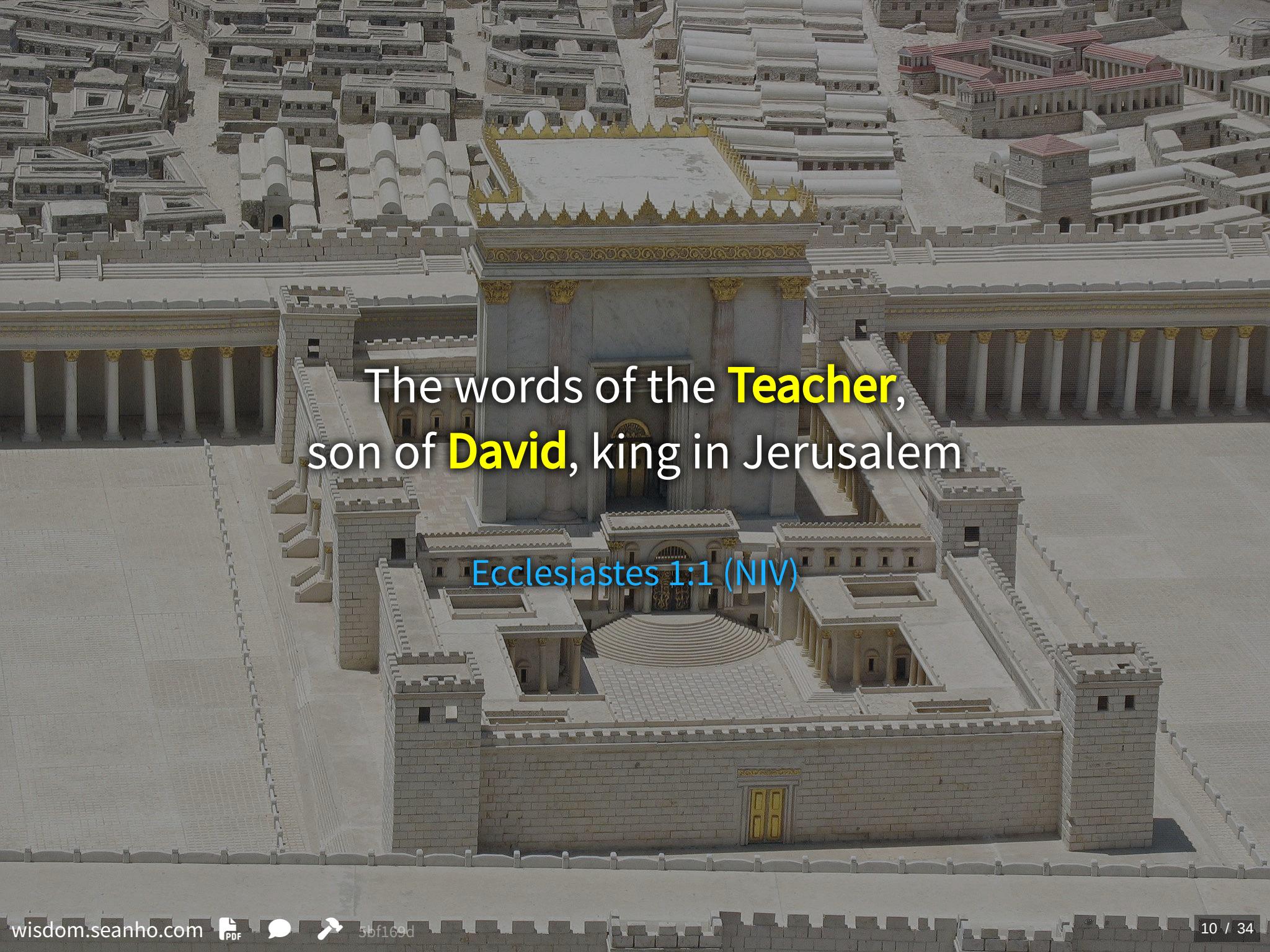
Ecclesiastes 1:17 (ESV) (p.4/5)

18 For in much wisdom is much vexation,  
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:18 (ESV) (p.5/5)

# **Wisdom** (Ecc 1)

1. **Searching** (v12-13a)
2. **Achievements** (v13b-15)
3. **Wisdom** (v16-18)



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

Ecclesiastes 1:1 (NIV)

Behold, I give you a **wise** and discerning mind,  
so that none like you has been **before** you  
and none like you shall arise **after** you.

1 Kings 3:12 (ESV)

Ryan Hutton

When Solomon was old his **wives**  
**turned away** his heart after other gods,  
and his heart was not **wholly true** to the Lord his God

So Solomon did what was **evil** in the sight of the Lord  
and did **not** wholly follow the Lord,  
as **David** his father had done.

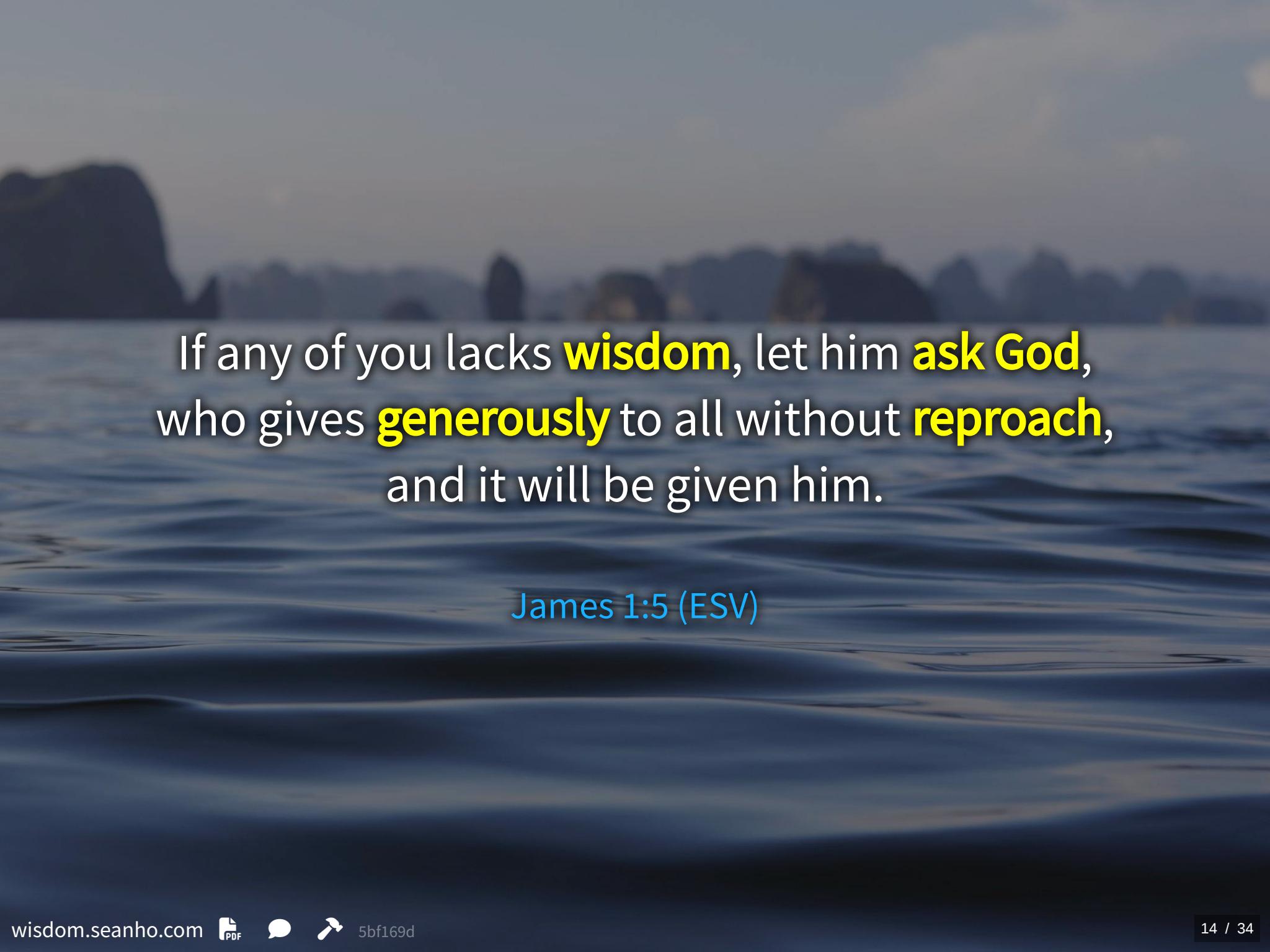
1 Kings 11:4,6 (ESV)

Los Angeles. Edwin Andrade

A photograph of a man from behind, standing on a grassy hillside. He is wearing a light blue t-shirt and tan cargo shorts. He is looking towards a range of mountains in the distance. The mountains are rugged with sharp peaks, some covered in snow and others in green vegetation. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

I applied my **heart** to seek and to **search** out  
by **wisdom** all that is done **under heaven**.

Ecclesiastes 1:13 (ESV)



If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him **ask God**,  
who gives **generously** to all without **reproach**,  
and it will be given him.

James 1:5 (ESV)

**Have I considered  
if I'm on  
the right path?**

# Wisdom (Ecc1)

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1. Searching (v12-13a)
2. **Achievements** (v13b-15)
3. Wisdom (v16-18)

I have seen everything that is **done** under the **sun**,  
and behold, all is **vanity** and a striving after wind.

What is **crooked** cannot be made straight,  
and what is **lacking** cannot be counted.

Ecclesiastes 1:14-15 (ESV)

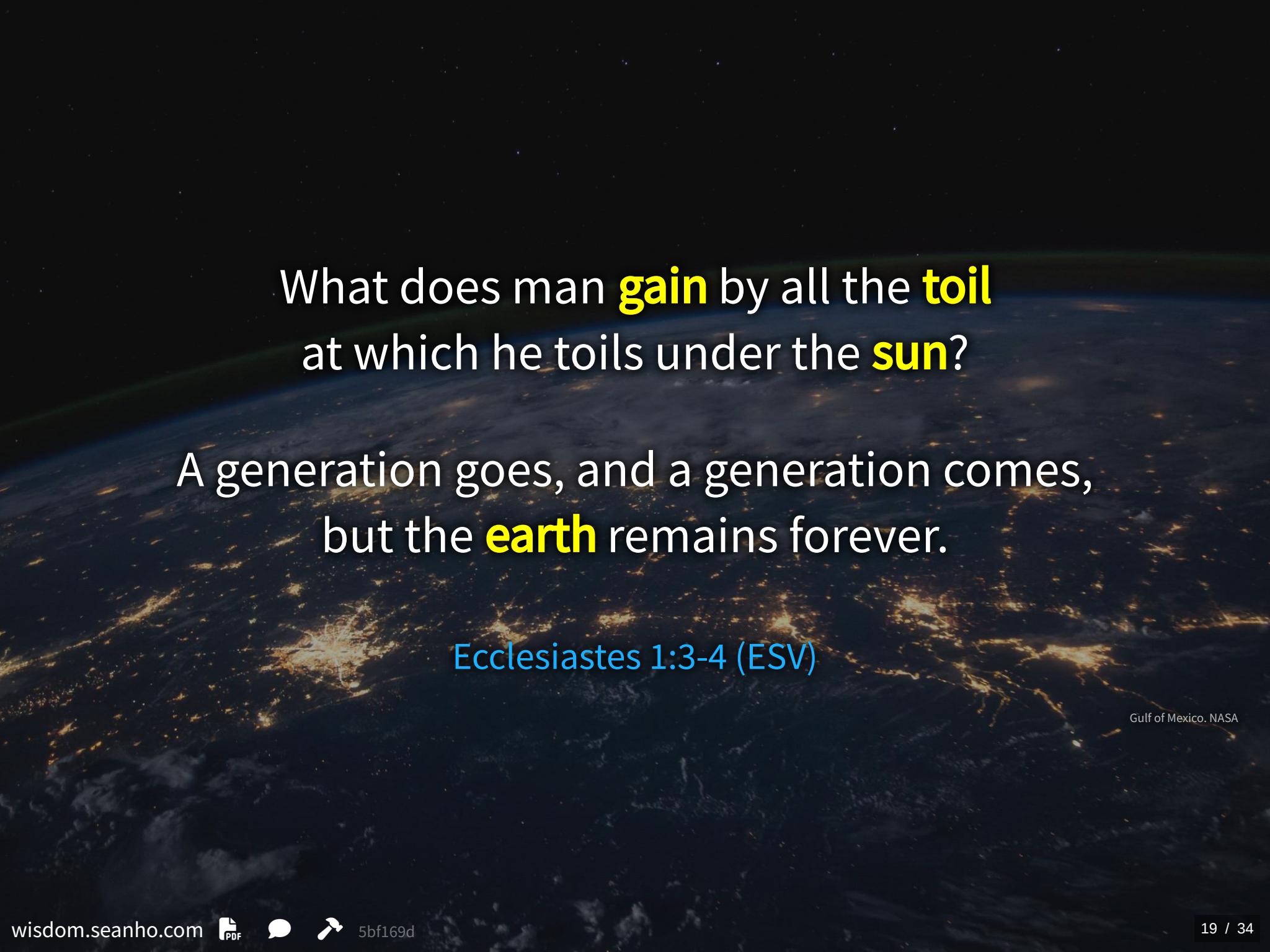
Claudio Testa

“If you add all the hundreds of **billions of dollars**  
that have been spent in this **war on drugs**,

[had we not] spent one **nickel** in the last **25 years**  
the situation would not be any **better** or any **worse**.

It had absolutely no effect, it was **wasted money.**”

Michael Levine, former DEA station chief

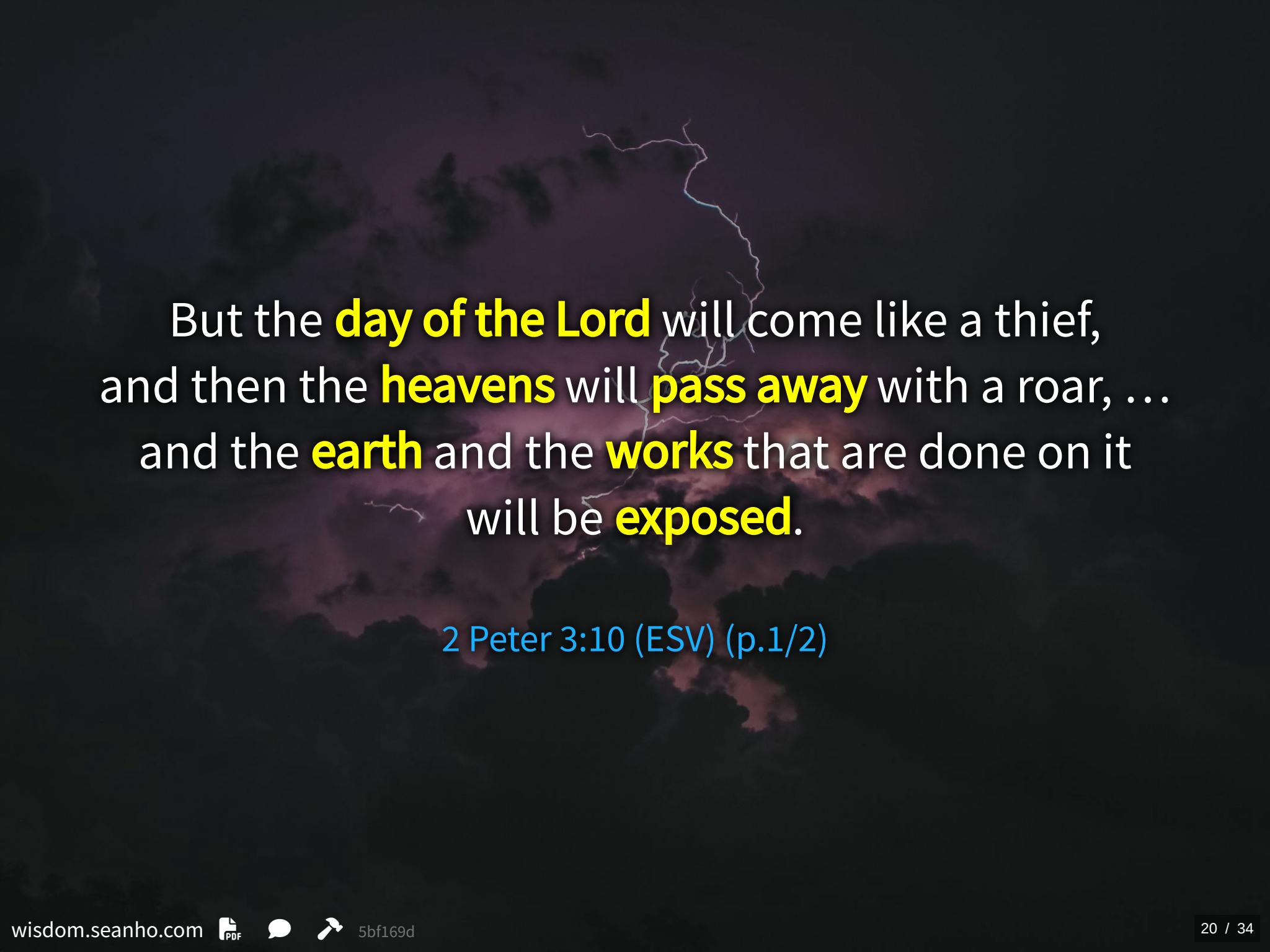


What does man **gain** by all the **toil**  
at which he toils under the **sun**?

A generation goes, and a generation comes,  
but the **earth** remains forever.

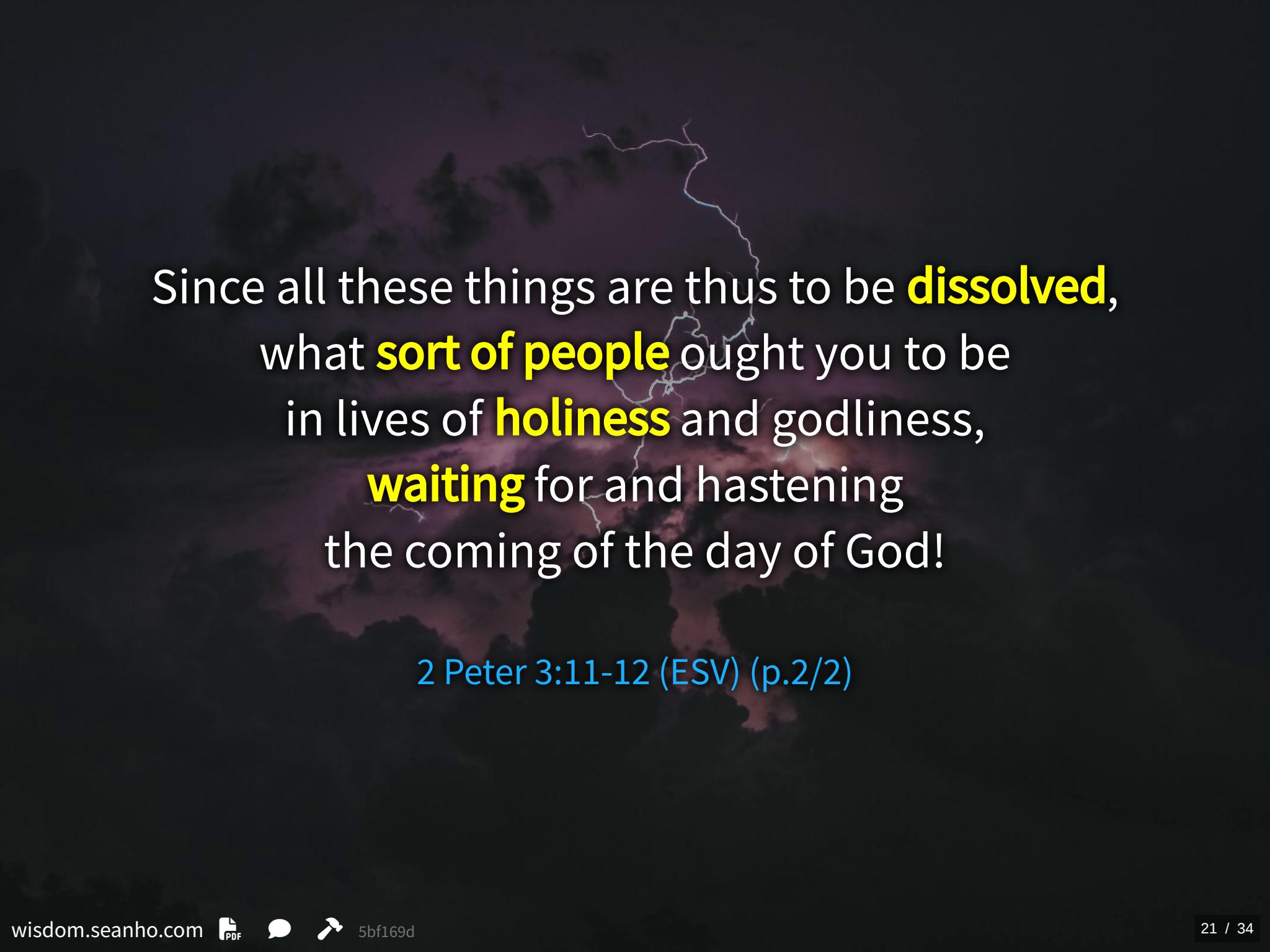
Ecclesiastes 1:3-4 (ESV)

Gulf of Mexico. NASA



But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief,  
and then the **heavens** will **pass away** with a roar, ...  
and the **earth** and the **works** that are done on it  
will be **exposed.**

2 Peter 3:10 (ESV) (p.1/2)



Since all these things are thus to be **dissolved**,  
what **sort of people** ought you to be  
in lives of **holiness** and godliness,  
**waiting** for and hastening  
the coming of the day of God!

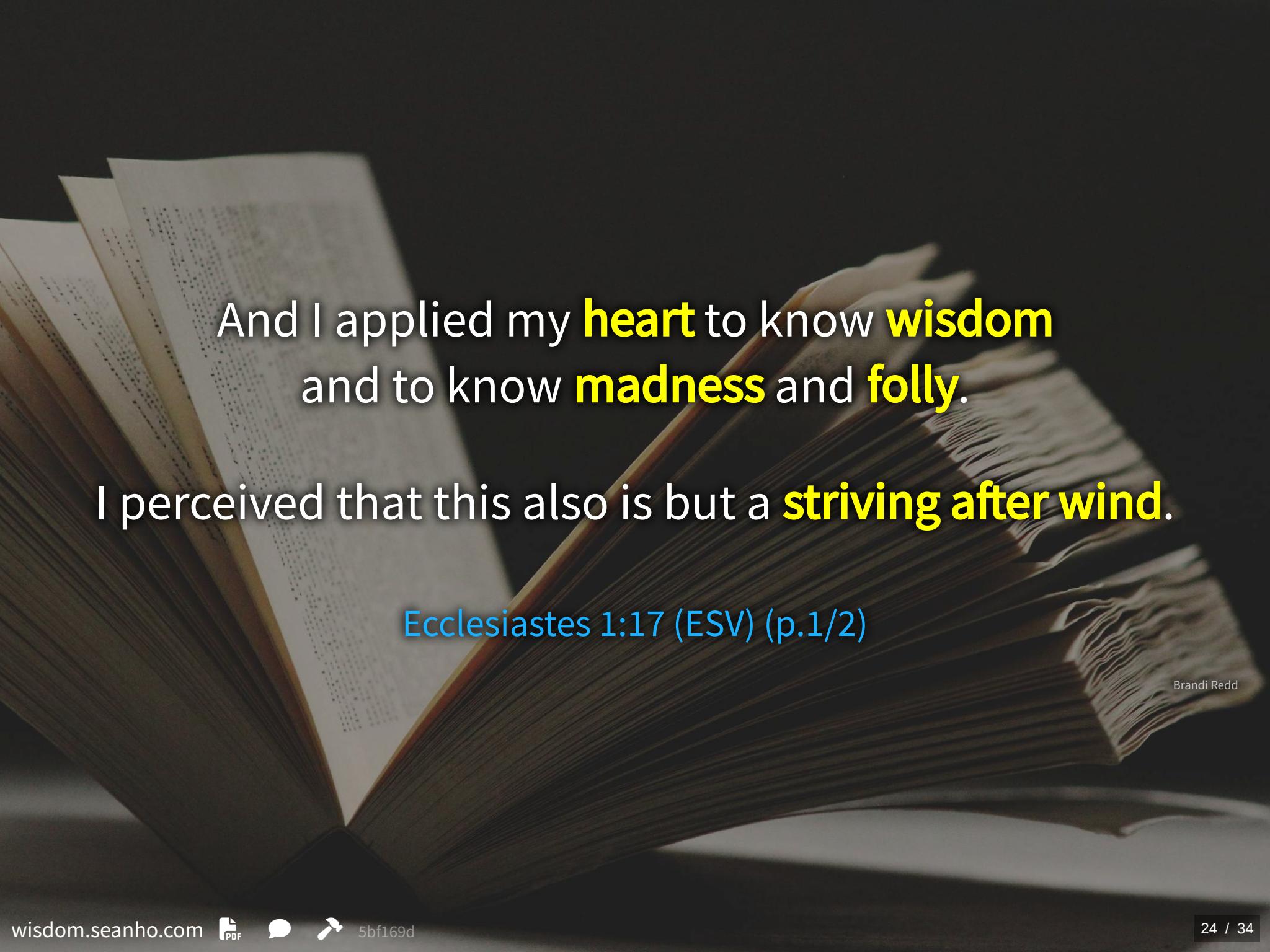
2 Peter 3:11-12 (ESV) (p.2/2)

What **projects** of mine  
have been **chasing** after  
the wind?

# Wisdom (Ecc1)

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1. Searching (v12-13a)
2. Achievements (v13b-15)
3. **Wisdom** (v16-18)

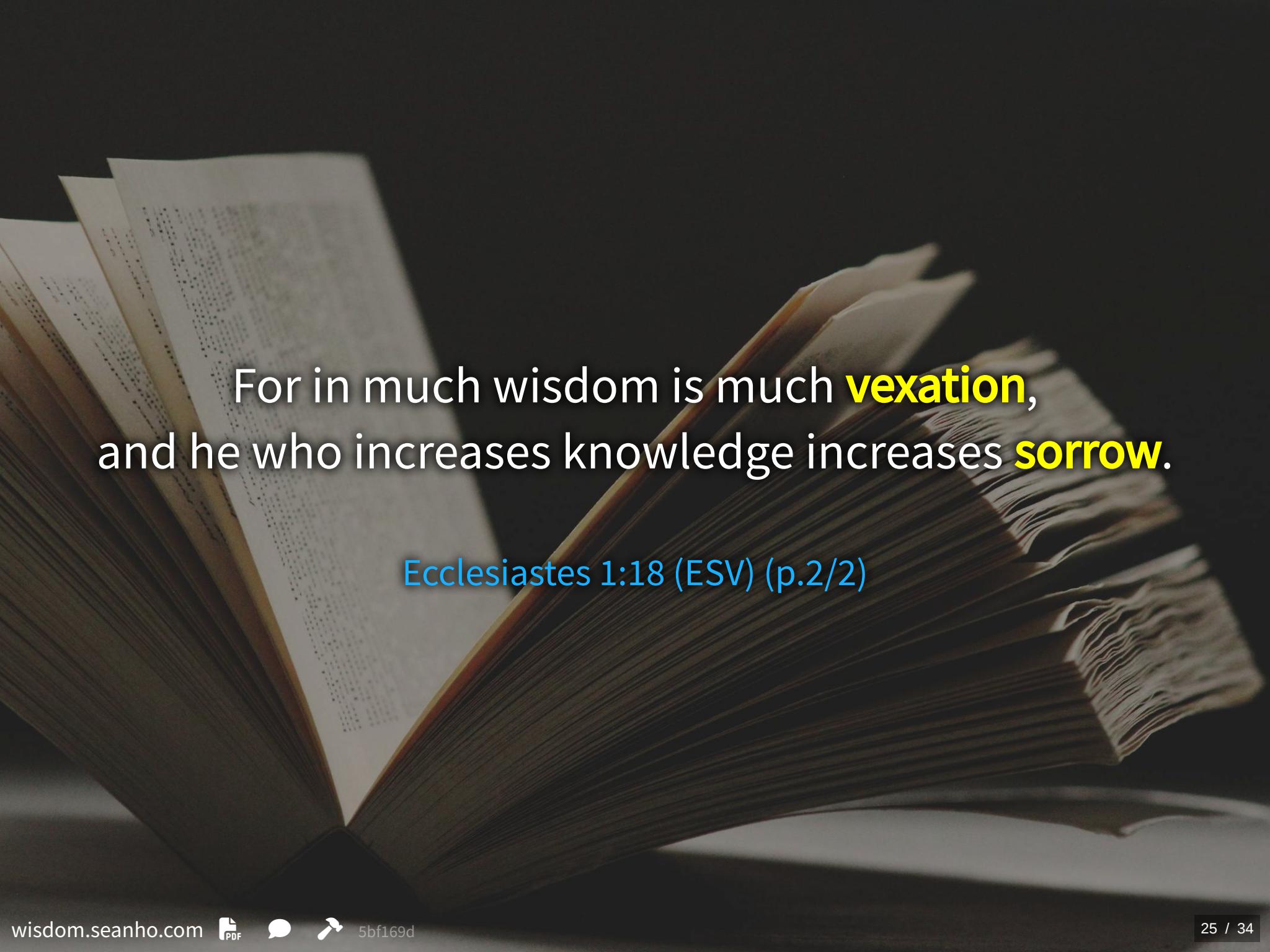


And I applied my **heart** to know **wisdom**  
and to know **madness** and **folly**.

I perceived that this also is but a **striving after wind**.

Ecclesiastes 1:17 (ESV) (p.1/2)

Brandi Redd



For in much wisdom is much **vexation**,  
and he who increases knowledge increases **sorrow**.

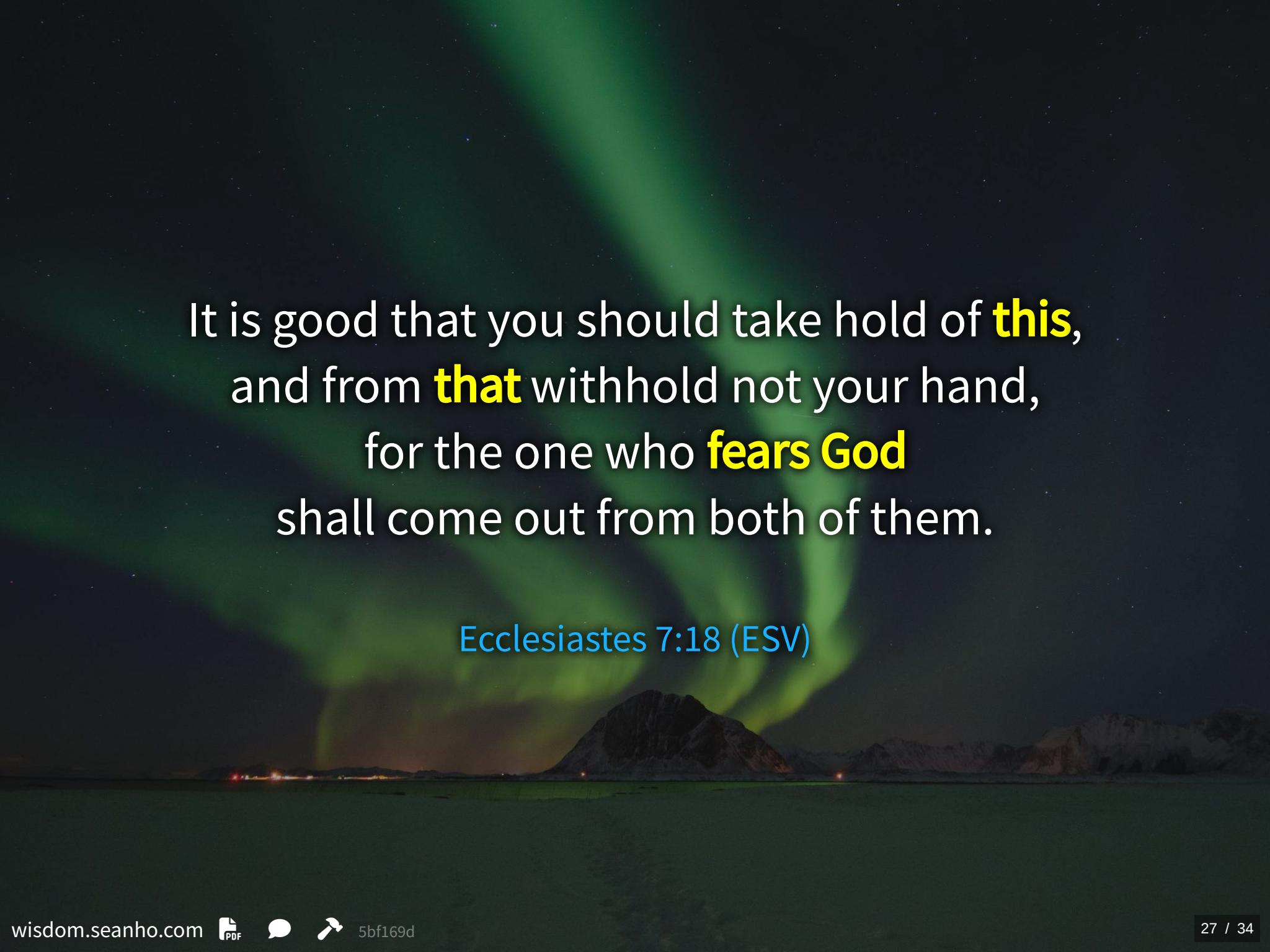
Ecclesiastes 1:18 (ESV) (p.2/2)



Be not overly **righteous**,  
and do not make yourself too **wise**.  
Why should you **destroy** yourself?

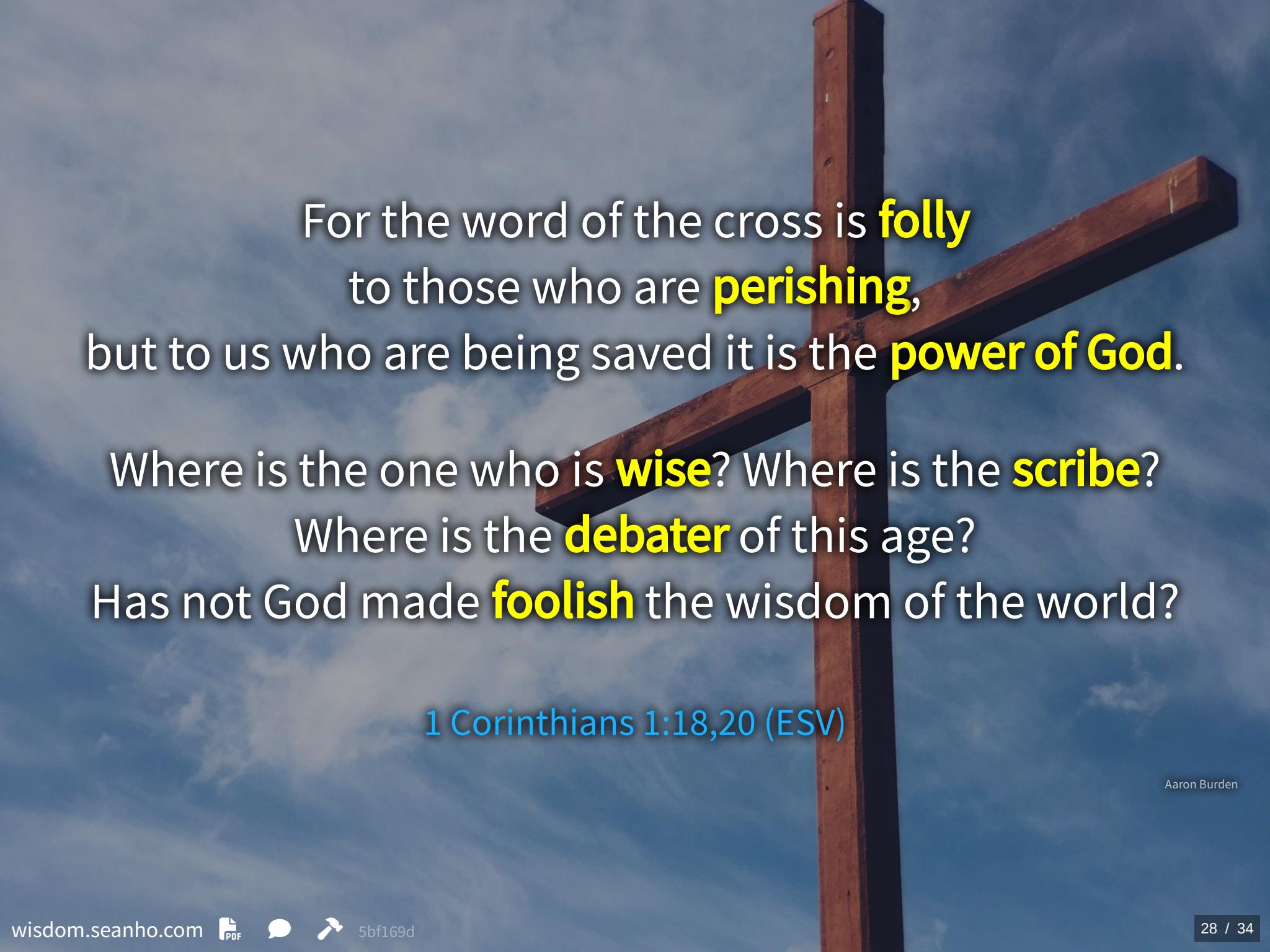
Be not overly **wicked**, neither be a **fool**.  
Why should you **die** before your time?

Ecclesiastes 7:16-17 (ESV)



It is good that you should take hold of **this**,  
and from **that** withhold not your hand,  
for the one who **fears God**  
shall come out from both of them.

Ecclesiastes 7:18 (ESV)

A photograph of a simple wooden cross standing against a backdrop of a blue sky filled with white and grey clouds. The cross is made of dark wood and has a rough, natural texture.

For the word of the cross is **folly**  
to those who are **perishing**,  
but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God**.

Where is the one who is **wise**? Where is the **scribe**?  
Where is the **debater** of this age?  
Has not God made **foolish** the wisdom of the world?

1 Corinthians 1:18,20 (ESV)

Aaron Burden

A large, dark wooden cross stands prominently against a backdrop of a blue sky filled with white and grey clouds. The cross is positioned vertically, with its horizontal beam extending towards the right side of the frame.

For the **foolishness** of God is **wiser** than men,  
and the **weakness** of God is **stronger** than men.

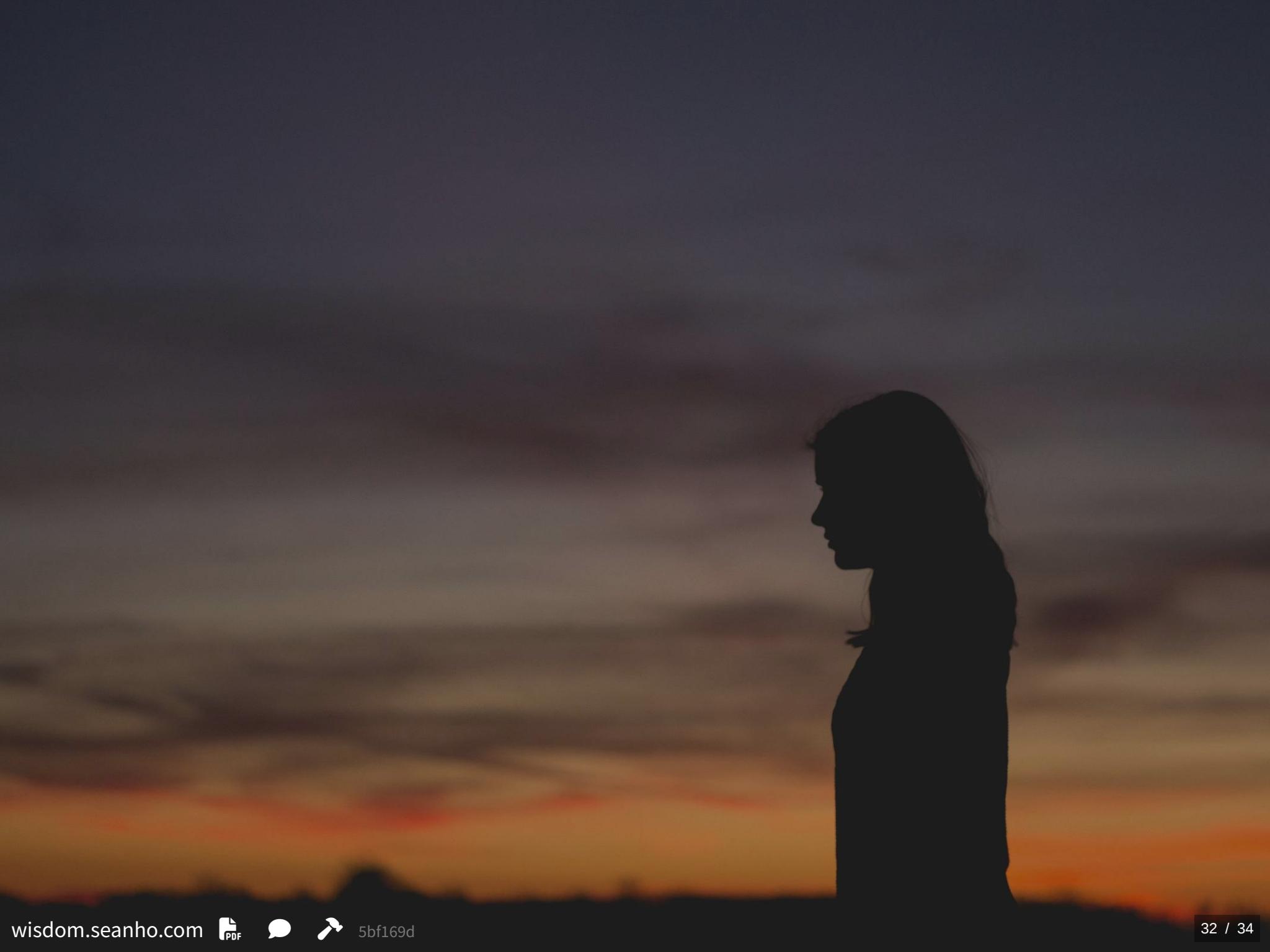
1 Corinthians 1:25 (ESV)

What does it mean  
to be **wise**?

A large, dark wooden cross stands prominently against a backdrop of a blue sky filled with wispy, white clouds. The cross is positioned vertically, with its horizontal beam extending towards the top right corner of the frame.

For the **foolishness** of God is **wiser** than men,  
and the **weakness** of God is **stronger** than men.

1 Corinthians 1:25 (ESV)



# Devos: Ecc 3 (Sun), 11 (Mon)

- Bring your **Bible**, pen + paper
- Find a **quiet**, undistracted spot
- **Settle** your heart, **pray** to be receptive to God's Word
- **Read** the passage straight through
  - Record initial **reactions**, questions
- Re-read, now **deeper**: context, xrefs, word study
  - Form an **outline** if you can
  - **Why** is this passage in the Bible?
  - What does God want to **communicate**?
- Re-read, now **slower**: pause, silence, listen
  - What is God saying to **you**?
  - **Pray** your response to God

1. Have I **considered** if I'm on the right path? (Jam1:5)
2. What **projects** of mine have been chasing after the wind? (2Pet3:10-12)
3. What does it mean to be **wise**?  
(1Cor1:18-25)