

Hope Presbyterian Church

Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



February 9, 2025

The Light of Life: Faith and Knowledge - Greg Gunderson, Guest Speaker

Texts Referenced (NIV): Ecclesiastes 2:12-14; 7:12

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Consider these contextual aspects of the book of Ecclesiastes:
 - It's one of the "Writings" of the Hebrew Bible and part of the Wisdom Literature of the Christian Old Testament.
 - Authorship is disputed - Rabbinic tradition believes it was King Solomon in his old age; some Christian scholars believe it was another Solomon.
 - The book is considered autobiographical. In it, the author, a king, relates his experiences and draws lessons from them, often being self-critical.
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 2: 12-14.**

The author considers wisdom versus "folly."

 - What does he mean by the wise have "eyes in their head"?
 - How does the reference to light in the darkness help us understand the nature of wisdom?
 - Are faith and knowledge related to wisdom? In what ways?
4. Consider the tension Christians often experience between faith in "things not seen" and knowledge based on "things seen" - tangible evidence.
 - Have you experienced a time when you've experienced this tension between faith and knowledge?
 - How did you navigate that situation? What happened?
5. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:12.**
 - How are wisdom and knowledge a shelter?
 - How do you respond to the New Living Translation version - "wisdom can save your life."
 - In what ways do we value and share wisdom in our culture? In our faith community?
6. How can we pray for you?