



ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 11:7-10

Eccl. 11:7 Truly the light *is* sweet, and a pleasant *thing it is* for the eyes to behold the sun:

8 But if a man live many years, *and* rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh *is* vanity.

9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy **heart** cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine **heart**, and in the sight of thine eyes: **but know thou**, that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment.

10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy **heart**, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth *are* vanity.

This evening, we continue on a wonderful, spiritual journey through the Book of Ecclesiastes, known also as “The Preacher.”

I. THE PREACHER’S SUBJECT, 1:1-11

A. The Preacher, 1:1

B. The Problem, 1:2-3

C. The Process, 1:4-11

II. THE PREACHER’S SERMON, 1:12-10:20

A. Things He Had Sought, 1:12—2:26

B. Things He Had Seen, 3:1—6:12

C. Things He Had Studied, 7:1-10:20

III. THE PREACHER'S SUMMARY, 11:1-12:14

A. He Repeats His Complaints About Life, 11:1-10

1. Look Well to Life's Future Prospects, 11:1-6

a. Be Prudent, 11:1-2

(1) Sow Bountifully, 11:1

(2) Sow Beneficially, 11:2

b. Be Practical, 11:3-4

(1) Things We Cannot Help, 11:3

(a) The Falling of Rain, 11:3a

(b) The Falling of a Tree, 11:3b

(2) Things We Can Help, 11:4

c. Be Perceptive, 11:5

(1) God's Ways are Beyond Our Knowledge, 11:5a-b

(a) The Way of the Holy Spirit, 11:5a

(b) The Way of the Human Sexuality, 11:5b

(2) God's Works are Beyond Our Knowledge, 11:5c

d. Be Provident, 11:6

(1) The Choice We Make, 11:6a

(2) The Choice We Take, 11:6b

In 1:12—6:9, Solomon demonstrated that all work is ultimately futile for two reasons. It does not yield anything really permanent **under the sun**, and we can never be sure we will enjoy the fruits of our labor before we die.

In 6:10—11:6, he pointed out that we can never be sure which of our efforts will succeed, because we do not know God's plans or what the future holds.

In 11:7—12:14, he emphasized how to live acceptably before God in view of these realities.

2. Look Well to Life's Fleeting Present, 11:7-8

a. Light Is An Enjoyable Thing, 11:7

Eccl. 11:7 Truly the light *is* sweet, and a pleasant *thing it is* for the eyes to behold the sun:

- The first reason we should enjoy life now is that we cannot do so after we die.
- As Christians we realize that life beyond the grave will be much better for believers than life on this earth.

Phil. 1:21 For to me **to live is Christ**, and **to die is gain**.

22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

23 For **I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:**

24 Nevertheless **to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.**

25 And having this confidence, **I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;**

26 **That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ** for me by my coming to you again.

b. Life Is An Enjoyable Thing, 11:8

(1) Oh, Happy Day, 11:8a “But if a man live many years, *and* rejoice in them all...”

- Solomon's advice to enjoy life is still good for today, since our earthly experience is indeed short, and we will never return this way again.

(2) Oh, Hateful Darkness, 11:8b-c

(a) How Endless It Will Be, 11:8b
“...yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many...”

- Enjoy youth for “the days of darkness” are inevitable – the challenge of old age.
- Even though the future is bright for the believer, the relative futility of our work and the uncertainty of our future on the earth still make joyful living a wise choice.

(b) How Empty It Will Be, 11:8c “...All that cometh *is* vanity.”

- The reality of aging and the finite limitations of man = vanity.

3. Look Well to Life's Frivolous Past, 11:9-10

a. A Call to Rejoice, 11:9

(1) The Young and Their Good Cheer,
11:9a “Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth...”

- Youth passes too quickly, enjoy it while you can.
- The aged ones know that “time flies” and “darkness” is looming.

Eccl 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, **while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh**, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

(2) The Young and Their Grave Choices,
11:9b-c

(a) What the Young Decide,
11:9b” ...and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes...”

- Solomon encourages an existential lifestyle and then drops a bombshell on the youth.

(b) What the Young Dismiss, 11:9c
“...but know thou, that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment.”

- To the youth, Solomon says “do your own thing,” but then warns of judgment.
- The prospect of judgment motivates denial among the atheists, secularists, and religionists who do not want to live according to the Creator’s dictates.

Psa. 14:1 **The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.*** They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good.* (Psa 53:1)

Acts 17:21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

31 Because **he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that man whom he hath ordained***; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked**: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*.

❖ Most people recognize the inevitability of death, but too often ignore the inevitability of what comes next – the judgment.

Heb. 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but **after this the judgment**:

b. A Call to Despond, 11:10

(1) The Cynical Challenge of the Sage,
11:10a “Therefore remove sorrow from thy **heart**, and put away evil from thy flesh...”

❖ Knowing the reality of a future judgment before Almighty God may bring conviction or sorrow.

Eccl. 1:18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

❖ “Sorrow” is connected to the call to separation as indicated by the admonition to “put away evil from thy flesh...”

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;**

(2) The Cynical Chime of the Sermon,
11:10b “...for childhood and youth *are*
vanity.”

- ❖ There is time for everyone simply to....GROW UP!
- ❖ Self-centeredness, whining, and selfishness are the typical traits of childhood and youth.

1 Cor. 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but **when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

Conclusion

- Spiritual maturity focuses upon self-denial, rather than childish selfishness.
- Life for a genuine, born-again child of God is a continuing growth process where life is valued by developing fellowship with the Creator, and, consequently, priorities become better focused in aligning with His perfect will.

1 Tim. 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they **be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;**

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 **Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.**

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace *be* with thee. Amen.