



ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 12:13-14

Eccl. 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for *this is the whole duty* of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

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

B. He Relates His Conclusions About Life, 12:1-14

1. Man and His Maker, 12:1

2. Man and His Mortality, 12:2-8

3. Man and His Mind, 12:9-12

a. The Preacher's Wisdom, 12:9

(1) His Mission, 12:9a

(2) His Method, 12:9b

b. The Preacher's Words, 12:10

c. The Preacher's Worth, 12:11

d. The Preacher's Work, 12:12

Tonight, we finish the Book of Ecclesiastes, a journey that began on February 23rd of this year. The Holy Spirit moved upon the wisest king that ever lived – King Solomon – to pen this wonderful book of wisdom during the latter years of his life. The Holy Spirit moved Solomon to help us to see the intrinsic value of all that a person could ever want – fame, finances, fruit of carnality, including fellowship and fruitfulness with God. Often he emphasized his perspective of being “under the sun,” from the earthly perspective. He began the book and ended it the same, stating, “all is vanity.”

Eccl. 1:2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all *is* vanity.

Eccl. 12:8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all *is* vanity.

Tonight, we see Solomon's summary of life's mission:

4. Man and His Mission, 12:13-14

a. Man's Supreme Duty, 12:13

(1) To Stand in Awe of God's Purpose, 12:13a
“**Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter...**”

- Solomon's summary is succinct, just two verses.

(2) To Stand in Agreement with God's Precepts, 12:13b "...**Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.**"

Eccl. 2:24 ***There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.***

25 For who can eat, or who else can hasten *hereunto*, more than I?

26 For *God* giveth to a man that *is* good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him that is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

Eccl. 7:15 All *things* have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just *man* that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked *man* that prolongeth *his life* in his wickedness.

16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldst thou destroy thyself?

17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?

18 *It is* good that thou shouldst take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for **he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.**

Eccl. 11:9 **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.

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;

Prov. 1:7 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:** *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, **Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;** and to depart from evil *is* understanding.

- Our “whole *duty*” to “fear God and keep his commandments” = Trust and obedience are what everyone owes God—in view of future judgment.
- Such trust and obedience are testimonies of living out our faith, a true expression of love.

Gal. 5:6b “...but faith which worketh by love.”

"What is the 'profit' of living? What does a man get for all his work? He gets the living God! And his whole profit consists of fearing Him and obeying His Word." Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Ecclesiastes: Total Life*. Everyman's Bible Commentary series. Chicago: Moody Press, 1979. p. 125.

- Why did the wisest man who ever lived make such a mess of his life?
- It was not because he was unintelligent.
- It was because of the choices he made.
- We may possess much wisdom yet fail because we choose not to use it.

b. Man's Sobering Destiny, 12:14

(1) Our Outward Behavior Judged,
12:14a “For **God shall bring every work
into judgment...**”

Rom. 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord,
every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall
confess to God.

12 So then **every one of us shall give account of
himself to God.**

(2) Our Innermost Being Judged, 12:14b
“...with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.”

Num. 32:23 But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and **be sure your sin will find you out.**

Mark 4:22 For **there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested;** neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. (Luke 8:17)

Conclusion

- ❖ The Book of Ecclesiastes is a book that is much needed today in modern culture.
- ❖ This book refutes the -isms and -ologies of today that are humanistically inclined.
- ❖ The focus “under the sun” and Epicurean tendencies are examined and explained.
- ❖ The practical truths are still relevant today.

- ❖ This book needs more popular exposition than it has received, because it exposes the error of contemporary man's ways so effectively.
- ❖ The succinct summary of Eccl. 12:13-14 are a perfect conclusion!

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, **when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.**