



Fear God. Keep His Commands

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

Men/Women

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon has observed everything and considered the unpredictability of life. Yet, throughout the book, Solomon continues to focus on life with God. He wants us to see that life's ultimate meaning can only be found in God, not in the continually changing circumstances of life. To avoid a futile and meaningless life, we must make God's kingdom rule a regular and strategic part of how we engage with our lives.

Question 1: One of the keys to developing a divine perspective is to start early. Ecclesiastes 12:1 says to remember your creator in the days of your youth. When did you start seriously walking with God and allowing him to rule in your life? Do you have children? How are you encouraging and teaching your children to follow God?

Question 2: Time will take its toll. While you still have strength, remember your Creator. Solomon ends Ecclesiastes where he started — everything is futile (12:8 & 1:2). To find true meaning, you have to bring God to bear on your life. In what ways have you wasted time not bringing God to bear? How can you begin today to redeem the time?

Question 3: Ecclesiastes 12:12 say that there are many books and that “study wearies the body”. As soon as you finish one book another is there to take its place. At some point you must put down the books and choose wisely. Don't waste your life thinking alone! What have you been thinking about that you now need to take action on?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Solomon concludes the book reminding us to take God seriously (12:13-14). Maximize the time God has given you, enjoy the legitimate pleasures he provides, and thank him in both good times and bad. What are the main ways you want to see your life count for time and eternity? Ask your group to pray for you to make wise day-to-day decisions so that your will life count for his kingdom agenda.