

Sermon Reflections

The Key to Life: Know Where You Are Going (Ecclesiastes 11:7 – 12:14)

Summary: Live life in view of its end, when you will see God in Judgement.

All people are on the way to the same end under the sun. In these verses Solomon offers three commands, as it were, to help us have a right perspective as we advance through the stages of life.

1. Rejoice in the Creator's gift of good days (11:7-12:1a)

- In verses seven and eight He contrasts light and darkness. What do these two signify and how should that affect our perspective on how we live day to day?
- Verse nine says, "Rejoice ... walk in the ways of your heart ... but ..." What is the qualification and what are some reasons for it? Also, what do we tend to do with God's good blessings?
- Verse ten says, "Remove vexation" and sorrow from your heart. Doesn't scripture teach that sorrow is good for us? What is his point?

2. Remember your Creator before the evil days come (12:1-7)

- Enjoy life, but remember God (12: 1). Talk about Solomon's contrast of the "days of your youth" and "the evil days."
- He gives several images of aging. Is there a message from God in the fact that our hair turns gray, our eye sight diminishes, our hearing declines, etc.? What message? Do these changes imply a warning?
- Also, what is the significance of "the spirit shall return to God" (v.7)? (Heb. 9:27)
- Verse 12:1 says, "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth..." When is someone old enough to not "remember" their Creator so they can disregard any good things God gave them to enjoy? What admonitions did Pastor Zaman offer on this topic to those who are advanced in years?

3. Revere your Creator as the purpose of your days (12:8-14)

- What evidence has Solomon given in the book to prove all is vanity? (v. 8)
- Verses 9-11 teach us why the book was written and how it was carefully structured to get the message across. Rick summed up the message as, "Life is not that complicated." How have you/we "complicated" the simple truths of God's good gifts, pleasures, sin, death, accountability, and final judgement and therefore wondered what we should pursue?
- Could there be anything more serious for a person than to be approved by God at final judgement? What basis do you have to think you are ready to stand alone before God in judgement? What can you do to be prepared?