

Ecclesiastes 12

LESSON 13

The Whole Duty of Man

1. Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 – Remember...

- a. *“thy Creator”* – 5x in scripture, a theme in Ecc – *“under the sun”*
 - i. Any philosophy that diminishes, hides, objects, your Creator is evil/ unwise.
 - ii. While young, live rejoicing, in remembrance and fear – 1 Tim 4:6, 2Cor 7:1
- b. 12:2-7 - Death – which is not a topic people like to remember - Gen 3:19
- c. The soul continues else Paul, John, Peter, Solomon, and Jesus are liars Mt 10:28
- d. 12:8 – *“all is vanity”* ... under the sun (ch.1-6) – the beginning and end – Ecc 1:2

2. Ecclesiastes 12:9-11 – The Preacher

- a. *“moreover”* – ch.7-12 he taught the people proverbs, knowledge
- b. *“was wise”* – Ecc 2:9 – Solomon still had wisdom, Ecc is still filled with wisdom
- c. This passage reminds us about the inspiration of scripture as well – 2 Tim 3:16
- d. 12:10 – What did the preacher do? sought, acceptable, upright, written, true words
- e. 12:11 – What does it mean? Use the Bible as a dictionary: 1Ch 22:3, Isa 41:7, Jer 10:4
 - i. Goads are sharp things to make things move right – 1 Sam 13:21, Judg 3:31
 1. Examples of words goading people – Hos 6:5, Acts 2:37
 - ii. Nails make things immovable - 1Ch 22:3, Isa 41:7, Jer 10:4
- f. *“masters of assemblies”* – like a preacher? Ecc 1:1, 12:9-10
 - i. Preachers are different than scholars or teachers – they edify, nail, goad.

3. Ecclesiastes 12:11-12 – A Word on Books

- a. *“many books”* – Now, the making of blogs, Google calcs 130m books 152m blogs
- b. The problem is not finding a book, it is finding the right, good, true book, John 21:25
 - i. There are books in heaven – Ps 119:89, Mal 3:16, Rev 20:12
- c. *“much study is weariness”* – perhaps talking about his own study – 1 Kings 4:32
- d. Bible study can make flesh weary, but the soul strong – Ps 119:28,50, Matt 4:4
- e. Why are books made? Knowledge, money, status. 2 Tim 3:7 is perilous!
 - i. Replace one word in the first commandment and you’ve got vanity and hell

4. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 – The Conclusion

- a. What matter? Everything... his life, his experiments, his wisdom, existence, vanity
- b. *“Fear God”* – The beginning and the end of wisdom – Prov 1:7, 1Kings 3:14
- c. *“Keep his commandments”* – Here the law, but we see further – God’s will.
 - i. This was also Jesus command John 14:21, 15:10, 1 John 3:22-24
- d. *“the whole duty of man”* – A word not used much, but appropriate. Beware NKJV.
 - i. Man owes obedience to their Creator, b/c he has given us life, eat, drink, etc
- e. 12:14 – Why is it the whole duty? Because we are accountable to the Creator
 - i. Men want to ignore, Creator, death, judgment, but without it we are lost.
 - ii. How to live with vanity? Do the work of the Lord. 1 Cor 15:54, 58