

Ecclesiastes

Chapters 11 & 12

I. Chapter 11

A. _____ (Ecc 11:1-6)

1. Verses 1-2 - After spending his life trying to please himself, in chapter 11 Solomon starts to focus on the responsibility and happiness that comes from ministering to others.
2. Verses 3-6 Solomon is no longer bellyaching about not being in charge of his life but instead has accepted that God is God and that he (Solomon) should just live making the most out of each day. He should invest in others, even if he does not know the outcome.
3. Like Solomon, this is the responsibility of the Christian.
 - a. We are to sow the gospel in others every day that we can – not knowing what the result will be.
 - b. Our job is to share the good news of Christ, it is God's responsibility as to whether that is fruitful or not.
 - c. The same goes for discipleship. We are to invest in new Christians, not knowing all that God has for them, or even if they will succeed or fail.
 - d. This is the reason that God did not call each one of us up at the time of our salvation, because He wants to use US to build His eternal Kingdom.
 - e. Since this is what we were made to accomplish, we are going to be frustrated, empty and miserable if we search for happiness in any other way.
4. Way too many Christians, and almost all non-Christians waste their lives chasing what they believe will give them happiness, only to live Solomon's life of vanity. The peace and happiness that comes from a correct relationship with God surpasses all human attempts to attain peace otherwise. (Phil 4:7, Col 3:15, 2Pet 1:2)

B. Remember _____ . (Ecc 11:7-8)

1. Light is sweet – People are healthier when they get some Sun
2. People's mental attitudes are MUCH better when they get sun.
3. Solomon here is saying that even in the great times, when the sun is shining on you and things are going well, remember that evil days will come.
4. If we over focus on trying to enjoy the good days, our lives will be vanity.
5. Remember all the rich people that we talked about – who just tried to make life easy on themselves? = vanity

C. _____ . (Ecc 11:9-10)

1. We must live our lives with the foresight that our lives will soon be judged.
2. Therefore – we must put away sin, put away the ways of our flesh, and focus on a live of serving God.

II. Chapter 12

A. _____ ! (Ecc 12:1-8)

1. Here Solomon continues where he left off in chapter 11 and adds more detail.
2. Creator – Again at the end of the book Solomon focuses on our rank – created servant!
3. Solomon is saying when we are young we should reverence God and obey his ways --- not wait till the end of a wasted life.
4. Like many who wake up late in life and regret it, he is pleading with others to not waste their lives in the same way as he has done.
5. This is Solomon’s summary statement about his life.
6. All ways to self-fulfillment apart from God are vanity – completely wasted.

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

B. Back to Proverbs! (Ecc 12:9-12)

Last, Solomon ends his journey back where he started his life, as a young God-fearing king, when he wrote the book of Proverbs before going off track in his life:

1. God’s wisdom and God’s Word are the keys to our life.
2. These are the words of truth
3. God’s Word will guide us, keep us in the ways of our Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
4. We are to be admonished (guided, corrected) by them.
5. To have this successful life, it takes hard work “weariness” to diligently pursue the Word of God and make it’s teaching, our hearts desire.

Conclusion to Ecclesiastes: Fear God, and keep his commandments

Ecc 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.

Ecc 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

1. After 12 chapters, 222 Verses, 5584 words, and a wasted life, Solomon gives us the conclusion on how to have a meaningful life.
2. “Fear God and Keep His commandments”.
3. Simple, easy to say, easy to remember and straight to the point.
4. It took Solomon his whole life to get back to this point.
5. The first question for each person – Do you really fear God?
Fearing God first means that you know that there is a coming Judgment and that you have personally accepted that Jesus Christ; Died and was buried and rose from the grave as full payment for your sins.
6. Second question – If you are saved - Have you really keep His commandments and commit your life to serving Him?