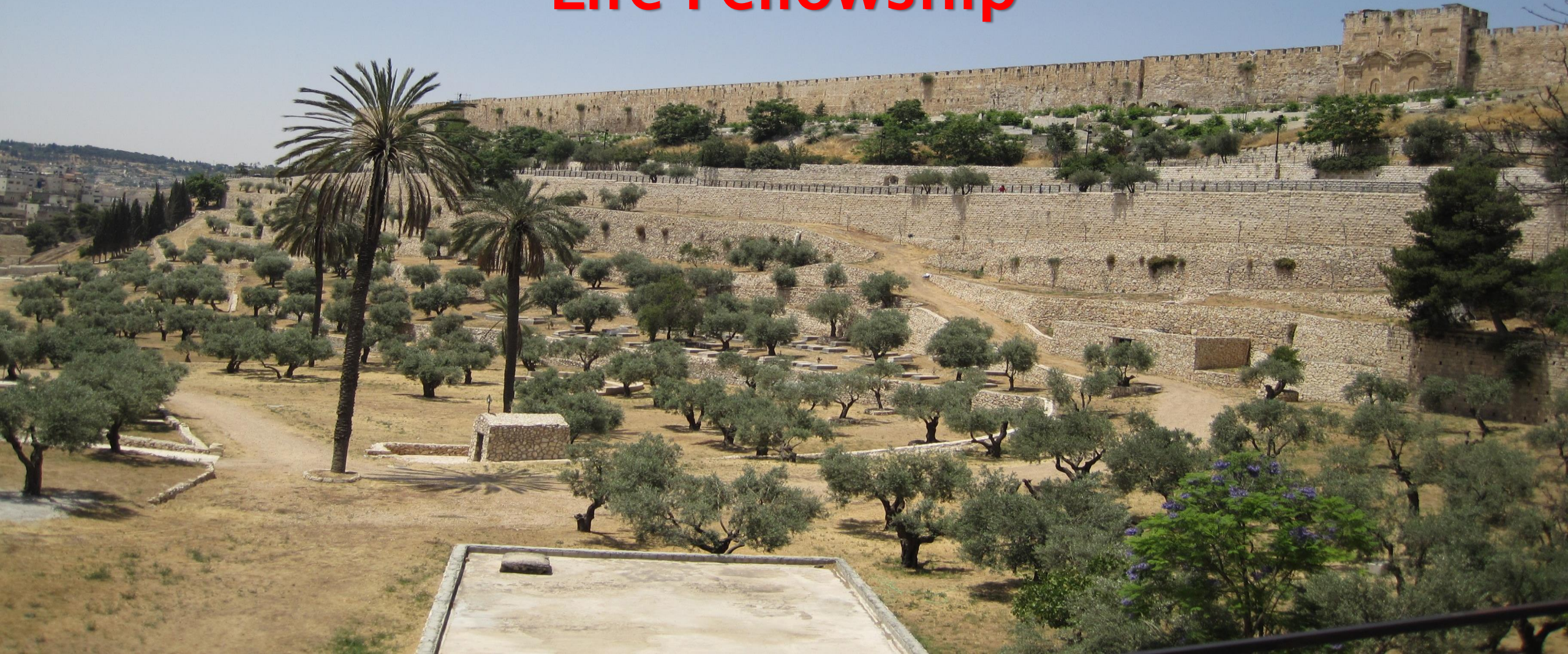


The Book of Ecclesiastes

Life Fellowship





Ecclesiastes Chapter 11

I. Chapter 11

A. Serve.

Ecc 11:1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.


Ecc 11:2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.


Ecc 11:3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty *themselves* upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

Ecc 11:4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

Ecc 11:5 As thou knowest not what *is* the way of the spirit, *nor* how the bones *do grow* in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

Ecc 11:6 In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both *shall be* alike good.

1. Verses 1–2 – After spending his life trying to please himself, here 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.
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3. Like Solomon, this is the responsibility of the Christian.
 4. Way too many Christians, and almost all non-Christians waste their lives pursuing what they believe will give them happiness, only to live Solomon's life of vanity.
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B. Remember evil, even when life is sweet.

Ecc 11:7 Truly the light *is* sweet, and a pleasant *thing it is* for the eyes to behold the sun:

Ecc 11:8 But if a man live many years, *and* rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh *is* vanity.

C. Vanity of youth

Ecc 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.

Ecc 11:10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth *are* vanity.

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 life of serving God.



Ecclesiastes Chapter 12

A. ALL IS VANITY!

Ecc 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;

Ecc 12:2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

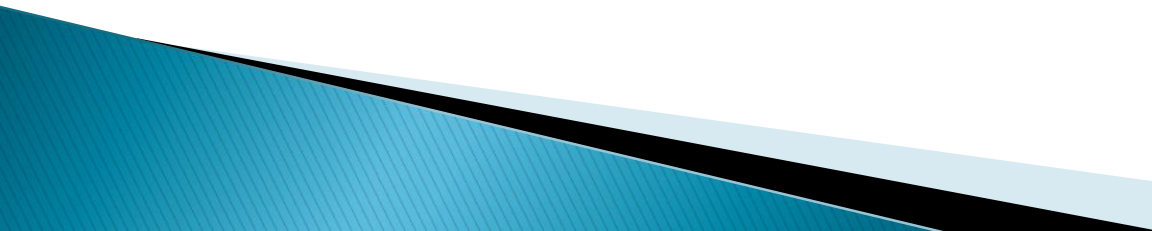
Ecc 12:3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

Ecc 12:4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

Ecc 12:5 Also *when* they shall be afraid of *that which is* high, and fears *shall be* in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:


Ecc 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.



1. 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.

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

5. This is Solomon's summary statement about his life.
 6. All ways to self-fulfillment apart from God are vanity – completely wasted.
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B. Back to Proverbs!

Ecc 12:9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, *and* set in order many proverbs.

Ecc 12:10 The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and *that which was* written *was* upright, *even* words of truth.

Ecc 12:11 The words of the wise *are* as goads, and as nails fastened *by* the lifemasters of assemblies, *which* are given from one shepherd.

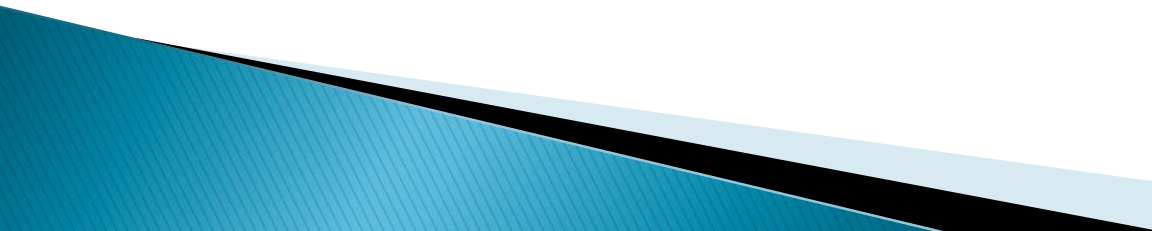
Ecc 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

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.
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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.
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So 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?

Second question – If you are saved – Do you really keep His commandments and commit your life to Him?



Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Notice what you are to confess to be saved – **The LORD Jesus** – not just the Savior Jesus

LORD = King, Master, Ruler



Christs Direct Commandments to Us!

Mat 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

Mat 28:17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Notice how the Ecc 12:14 goes on to say that **God shall bring every work into judgment** – what is the evidence of your works?

Are you living like Solomon did chasing happiness in all the wrong ways, or have you really become the living sacrifice that God commands you to be?

Romans 12:1–2

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

As Solomon learned, You were created to be a servant of the Most High God and only when you submit and fulfill that role will you have a successful, fulfilling life.

All else is vanity!

