

That Which Was Written Was Upright

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Ecclesiastes Chapter Twelve

~ King Solomon's documentation of his life's-experiments are complete as we arrive in chapter twelve of Ecclesiastes. His research has been peer-reviewed, analyzed, and reevaluated. The fact-checkers have combed the writings, and a final determination is rendered in this section of Scripture; which constitutes our final report from Ecclesiastes in our Spiritual Safari. Frankly, I rejoice that we have reached the end of a book that presents a dreadful, pessimistic, hopeless, and horribly cynical viewpoint of life; or, what the unbeliever claims to be their '*worldview*.' Solomon has literally covered every facet and perspective of our humanistic, existential being. There is no philosophical or theoretical stone that has not been turned over — physically or psychologically.

As we have learned, Solomon was seeking a solution to life's problem of mundanity, first and foremost; hoping for something or someone that could bring him a satisfaction of heart that would never diminish. Unfortunately, everything he has pursued in the previous eleven chapters was done apart from God. Thus, all has been disappointment, failure and, well, vanity. You're not going to find happiness in this life apart from God, friends. God is in the Heavens, and Solomon was under the sun. If you have not read our entire safari collection of reports on this book of the Bible, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. On the other hand, I don't recommend anyone read this or any of the safari commentary; because this book is the equivalent of the Alice in Wonderland of the Bible – and I am not capable of writing on that level. It may be best to stop here and move along.

We are examining the man under the sun; the man attempting to live his life apart from God in Ecclesiastes. If, for some strange reason, you are still reading these reports, then you will recall Solomon's experiments of science, wisdom, philosophy, pleasure, materialism, fatalism, egoism, wealth, rapacity, and religion never brought happiness or joy to his life; and

they didn't bring satisfaction to his heart. Temple worship in Solomon's day demanded continuous religion, but it had very little reality. Perhaps life wasn't quite as complicated in Solomon's day, but the answer to our problems, as Christians, is not found under the sun – and it wasn't found under the sun for Solomon, either. Seeking fulfillment in the wrong places only sunk the man who had everything into a deeper despair. Our hope, satisfaction of life, and desire, as Christians, is in the Heavens. Our treasure is not on earth. We're strangers and pilgrims down here. That has never changed, and never will — as long as we inhabit this fleshy body.

The man we have been profiling in the last several chapters is the “*do-gooder*” in the community. He lives the good life. He is generally sincere, and desires to do good things for those around him. However, being apart from God, while claiming to love Jesus, he exhibits an exceedingly insipid life of mediocre blah; and his poor example causes more and more people to turn away from the true and living church, away from the Lord Jesus Christ, and even further from the Word of God.

The modern church is the church's biggest problem. Others see the fake and phony “*love, love, love*” philosophy of religion, and a veneer of doing good — which is really just a compromise designed to pacify — all while churchy capitalism is desperately chasing the almighty dollar — and the atheistic young person says, “.... *no, thanks.*” And, friends, I can't blame them. Of course, they don't have the solutions for life or satisfaction of heart outside of Christ, either — but I understand their near hopeless confusion. It's a horrible reality that brings us to the topic of old age in the Bible. This is the end of it all — documented in chapter twelve of Ecclesiastes....

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;

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

~ The sun won't be going out – you will! Blackness and darkness forever is where we are *all* going. Some will be raised with Christ in the light of love, others are reserved for judgment in chains, in the blackness of darkness, forever apart from Christ. Then, they will later be raised unto damnation, judged, and tormented to some degree eternally by Satan. Time flies in this life — but stands still in eternity. For the lost, one sad experience rapidly succeeds the next. That's life under the sun; but I'm not being a fatalist — I'm teaching the Bible — and the Bible is not fatalism! There is a song that declares, “.... *life goes on, long after the thrill of living is gone.*” That's so true for the natural man. I can remember when many things of the world were intensely interesting but, now, have become outdated, outmoded, faded, and obsolete. Some of it seems so silly, looking back — and, yet, the endeavor was so incredibly expensive at the time. All a waste. All vanity. Well, this physical body will ultimately break down and cease to function, too — but you will go on, my friends — one way or another — in Heaven, or in the torment of hell....

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,

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;

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:

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.

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

~ God is speaking of our physical body, friends. The *“keepers of the house”* are the knees. The *“strong men”* are the shoulders. The *“grinders”* are the teeth. The *“windows”* are the eyes. The *“doors”* are the ears. Life will ultimately culminate at the place where songbirds cease singing in our heart. The *“daughters of music being brought low”* means we won’t sing anymore, either. You may come to despise music altogether. These bodies get old, you may be sure. The *“silver cord”* is the spinal cord. The *“golden bowl”* is the head. The *“pitcher at the fountain”* are the lungs and the *“wheel”* is the heart, pumping blood through the body. As you get older, we typically become more careful. We just can’t do some of the things we used to be able to do.

See, our earthly, fleshly body does not have a spirit and a soul; no, our spirit and soul have a temporary body on earth in this life, that we comprehend as the flesh. You might want to make a note about that. This earthly body is our temporary tabernacle and temple – which was always a tent in Moses’ day. When we die, our spirit and soul will either go to be with Christ - or to damnation and eternal judgment. I cannot stress that enough as we close this book of the Bible, because that’s what the Word of God is stressing in this section of Scripture.

Remember, I warned you myriad times not to even read my reports. Whatever is happening to you — or not — is your own fault. You can’t blame me — and you can’t blame God. The psychological effects of aging are intense — and can be painful beyond description. You can pretend to be as young as you want to, or blur it out of focus with drugs — but that’s only a topical crème on cancer. One day, something that did not formerly frighten us suddenly terrifies us. Some tragic thing we hadn’t thought about in twenty years or more becomes as vivid again as if it just happened yesterday. It’s the little things that turn out to be the most traumatic when our episodes culminate into the epilogue. And it happens in everyone’s life. That’s the picture – the big picture – of old age....

8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.

~ Living for self in the here and now is like holding an empty handful of ashes throughout eternity. Most sheep are not even dimly aware of that

impending doom. We laugh as children, and time seemingly creeps along slowly in our youth. Then, as we age, time begins to fly by. One day, we discover ten years have gotten away from us. No one told us when to run, and we missed the starting gun. The race was over before we even realized it began! Some of the craziest sayings of the past have grown to be profound wisdom. See, science and education cannot solve the problems of this life. If education were the answer to man's problems, then mankind wouldn't have any problems — period. Each new scientific discovery only compounds the myriad technological and social problems we already have. Those are immutable, irrefutable, and truthful facts that cannot be worked out by mankind. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can reveal the answers to our problems today. His answers are only located in the Word of God. So, with that, and our remaining verses, our Spiritual Safari is going to complete commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes. May God richly bless you forevermore....

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.

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

11 The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

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.

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil ~

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