

*'All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.'*  
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

# The Book of Ecclesiastes

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Chapter 12



## **Kerrville Bible Church**

Fall Semester 2023

Ken Johnson

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## Ecclesiastes

### Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

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- Chapter 11, Verses 9-10: Rejoice! Start when you are young ... and never stop these things!
  - Let your heart be pleasant (*good, sound, strong*).  
**FEAR the Lord!**
  - Find pleasure in pleasing God and He will implant His desires in your heart
  - Remove grief and anger (*bitterness*) from your heart, by trusting God's sovereignty and forgiving as you have been forgiven
  - Put away pain from your body – stop putting things in your body and mind that cause pain



# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

<sup>1</sup> Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them";

- Remember also ... while in your youth
- "Creator" – before you can "Remember" your Creator you must believe He exists! **Fear God!**
  - Discover the greatness and glory of God
  - Learn to trust His Sovereignty and Wisdom
- "Remember" ... as in "*pay attention and obey*"
- Now ... before it's too late!
  - BEFORE evil days come!
  - BEFORE life becomes less delightful!



# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

<sup>2</sup>before the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are darkened, and clouds return after the rain;

- Remember now ... before you suffer the Effects of aging
  - Dimming of sun, moon and stars ...
    - Memory ... maybe the first to go
    - Reasoning Power ...
    - Imagination ...
  - Clouds Return after the Rain ...
    - Seemingly endless cycle of one infirmity followed by another





## Ecclesiastes

### Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

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- 87% of Americans are afraid of getting old
- That which makes us uncomfortable, we joke about:
  - “Three things indicate the onset of old age: the first is losing the memory ... I can’t remember the other two”
  - “Old age is when your knees buckle ... but your belt won’t”
  - “Just about everything hurts ... and what doesn’t hurt, doesn’t work”
- Old age and death cannot be laughed away:
  - You can try to deny it ... you can try to avoid it
  - But the passing of the days is relentless ... and with them, your time on this earth is running out

# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

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- Verses 3-7 are vivid poetic imagery of an old, decaying house to picture those “evil days”
  - The progressive dissipation of Aging
  - The anticipation and experience of Death
  - Life is headed this way for us all



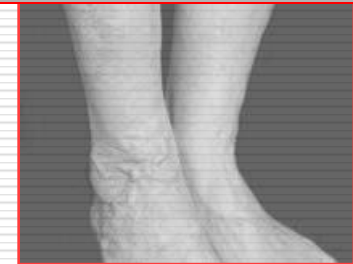


# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

<sup>3A</sup> in the day that the watchmen of the house tremble, <sup>3b</sup>and mighty men stoop,

- Watchmen are the Arms and Hands
  - Serve and maintain the body
  - Defend ourselves when attacked
  - Begin to weaken and tremble
- Mighty Men are the legs
  - Strongest parts of the body
  - Swift and agile
  - Become frail and need support



# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)



<sup>3C</sup> the grinding ones stand idle because they are few,

- Loss of teeth
- Must eat softer food

<sup>3D</sup> and those who look through windows grow dim;

- Fading eyesight
- Cataracts and other problems



# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)



4A and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low,

- Lose sense of hearing

4B and one will arise at the sound of the bird,

- Awaken early ... but wish to sleep longer

4C and all the daughters of song will sing softly

- Voice weakens
- Enjoyment of music impaired





# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

<sup>5A</sup> Furthermore, men are afraid of a high place  
and of terrors on the road;

- Feebleness of the feet
  - Unsure of step
  - Fear of falling

<sup>5B</sup> the almond tree blossoms,

- Hair turns white with age

<sup>5C</sup> the grasshopper drags himself along,

- Stiff, aching body moves slowly





# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

<sup>5D</sup> and the caper berry is ineffective.

- ❑ Caper berry known to the Hebrew as a stimulant and aphrodisiac
- ❑ The senses diminish: smell, taste, appetite and other desires



<sup>5E</sup> For man goes to his eternal home while mourners go about in the street.

- ❑ Preacher confronts death
- ❑ "Eternal home" suggests the grave is **not the end of our existence**
- ❑ Those who remain behind will mourn



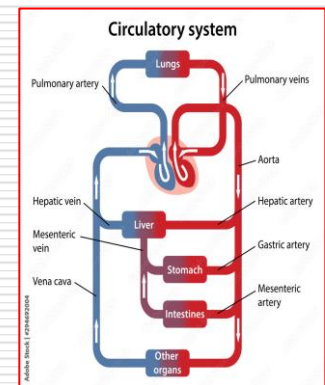
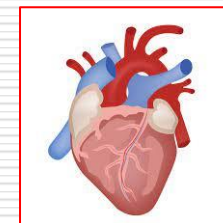
# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)



<sup>6</sup>Remember Him before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed;

- Before death ... “Remember Him”
  - Last Chance!
- Solomon speaks of several ways death comes:
  - Silver cord ... spinal cord
  - Golden bowl ... cranium
  - Pitcher ... heart
  - Wheel at the cistern ... circulation system of the blood





## Ecclesiastes

### Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

<sup>7</sup>then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

- ❑ After death ... the body crumbles to dust
- ❑ BUT we possess a spirit apart from the body
  - God has set eternity in our hearts
  - God has promised life beyond the grave
- ❑ **Our spirit returns to the GOD WHO GAVE IT**
  - Does this statement conclusively affirm an afterlife, or
  - Simply hint at it?



# Ecclesiastes

## Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

8 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "all is vanity!"

- The Preacher began with these words and ends here with same ones
- What a tragic waste this existence "under the sun" is for most people:
  - To live and never discover the purpose of life!
  - To live and never find satisfaction and lasting joy!
  - God has designed man to be **empty without Him!**
  - Meaningless, futile soap bubbles





## Ecclesiastes

### Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

8 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "all is vanity!"

- ❑ So .., The Preacher is pleading with us
  - Find God now - before any older
  - Be inexpressibly grateful for His Sovereignty
  - Eagerly Seek His wisdom,
  - Hungrily Devour and Obey His Scriptures
  - Joyously Fear Him!
- ❑ Take a bite of your apple TODAY!





# Ecclesiastes

## Prepare for Judgment (12:9 – 14)

9In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs. 10The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.

- ❑ Koheleth became wise ... a gift from God
- ❑ His preparation was careful, ordered and thorough
- ❑ He sought ways to use interesting, arresting and accurate words ... so that people would listen to and remember his messages
- ❑ However, he did not dilute his messages, but wrote "words of truth" correctly (*inspired*)
- ❑ As a result, Solomon taught with great power and influence ... in all of his writings



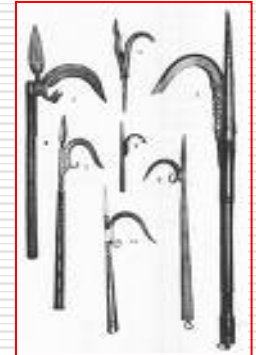


# Ecclesiastes

## Prepare for Judgment (12:9 – 14)

11The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd.

- ❑ These words are a “goad” to prod and poke you to go where you would not ordinarily go
- ❑ Also a “nail” ... firmly fixed ... to hold onto in times of trouble?
- ❑ Source of Power? “Given by **one Shepherd**”
  - Inspired, God-breathed words
  - Inerrant, perfect wisdom and truth
- ❑ God is our shepherd ... we are his wandering sheep in need of His care





# Ecclesiastes

## Prepare for Judgment (12:9 – 14)

12But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body.

- Preacher warns of relying on other books:
  - Don't let any book take you **beyond the truth in God's Word:**
    - Don't test God's truth by the books of men
    - Test men's books by the truth of God's word
- God's Word is Truth ... all we need for life and godliness

*"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17*



# Ecclesiastes

## Prepare for Judgment (12:9 – 14)

13The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

- ❑ Koheleth gives his conclusion from his exhaustive study: “Fear God and keep His commandments”
- ❑ “Every person” literally reads “it is the whole of everyone”
  - It is our **essence** – the very essence of mankind is to Fear God and to obey Him.
- ❑ This is the answer to Solomon’s question: What profit does man have “under the sun”?
  - It is not any form of his human achievement
  - It is **his personal connection with the Living God!**



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  - It is not any form of his human achievement
  - It is **his personal connection with the Living God!**
    - ❑ God is Sovereign and He has adopted me



# Ecclesiastes

## Prepare for Judgment (12:9 – 14)

14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

- ❑ Six times, Solomon told us to enjoy life while we can
- ❑ But at no time did he advise us to enjoy sin
- ❑ Nothing can be hidden from God:
  - He knows everything ... every thought ... every motive ... every word ... every action
  - He sees the deception ... the selfishness
  - He sees the kindness ... the gentleness
- ❑ Everything will come out in the open at last
  - All of our illusions will be stripped away
  - We will finally see ourselves as He sees us
- ❑ And every single thing will be judged!



## Ecclesiastes

### Prepare for Judgment (12:9 – 14)

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#### OUR COURSE HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR!

- Remember God, the Creator (12:1)
- Fear God, the Creator (3:14; 5:7;8;12;12:14)
- Keep God's Commandments (12:14)
- Enjoy the life God gives (9:7-10)
- Prepare for leaving life "under the sun" (12:1)
- Prepare to stand before God in a future judgment where we will be held accountable for:
  - For enjoying what he has given you, and
  - For living in accord with His commands (11:9)



# The Book of Ecclesiastes

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***"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10"***

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