

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

THERE IS A GOD (ECCLESIASTES 11-12)

Memory Verse: "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14



- There is a God...the only true and living God, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
 - One of the defining characteristics of modern culture is not always outright atheism but practical atheism. Many people acknowledge the possibility of God while living as though He has no claim over their decisions.
 - The practical conclusion of "everything under the sun" is not despair, or pleasure, or wealth, or human achievement; the answer is GOD!
1. There is a Sovereign God (11:1-6), Ecclesiastes 11:5
 - **You do not know** does not negate the existence or sovereignty of God
 - **Know** is **yada** which means to fully know; man does not fully know anything of God; our knowledge is not the final judge on the existence of God
 - Modern embryology has revealed astonishing complexity inside the womb. At fertilization, one cell already contains the complete genetic blueprint for an entire human body. Isaiah 55:8-9
 2. There is a Benevolent God (11:7-10), Ecclesiastes 11:7,9
 - **Rejoice** is **samach**; its fulfillment comes when it is done in Jesus; true joy is always accountable, Philippians 4:4
 - The Puritans are often seen as joyless, but they believed that the deepest happiness is found in communion with God
 3. There is a Deserving God (12:1-12), Ecclesiastes 12:1
 - **Remember** is **zakar**; it means to live in its truth/covenant, not just bring to mind
 - The brain develops habits through repeated practice. Neural pathways become stronger with consistent patterns of thought and behavior. While people can change throughout life, the key is to begin as early as possible to deepen the habits.
 - The poem of old age (12:1-7) provides seven descriptions of aging; yet, God is faithful in the process. Aging is a visible reminder of our lives without Jesus (He will make all things new!) Isaiah 46:3-4, Psalm 90:12
 4. There is a Judging God (12:13-14) Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
 - **Fear** is **yare**; reverent awe and loving submission
 - **Judgment** is **mishpat**; complete judgment without prejudice or negligence, Romans 14:10-12
 - **Hevel** only applies to things under the sun; all things above the sun revolve around the SON! May our eyes be focused on the ONE who brings value to our lives for all eternity: abundant life!
 - The question is not does God exist; but rather, will we submit to live in the truth of His existence.

We're going to THREE SERVICES on Sept. 13th. Join us at 8:30AM | 10AM | 11:30AM.

Questions:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-6; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33. What repeated expressions in Ecclesiastes 11:5-6 emphasize the limits of human knowledge? How do Isaiah 55:8-9 and Romans 11:33 reinforce the truth that God's wisdom exceeds ours? In what areas of your life are you tempted to demand certainty instead of trusting God's providence? Consider how advances in embryology have revealed extraordinary complexity in prenatal development. How does increased scientific knowledge deepen appreciation for God's creative wisdom rather than eliminate the need for the Creator?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 11:7-10; Psalm 16:11; James 1:17; Romans 1:25. How does Solomon balance joy with accountability? What gifts from God are easiest for you to enjoy rightly? Which are easiest to turn into idols? How does remembering the Giver reshape your daily gratitude and priorities?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-8; Psalm 90:12; Isaiah 46:3-4. Why does Solomon urge people to remember their Creator "in the days of your youth"? If you knew your remaining years were few, what priorities would change today? How do habit formation and lifelong patterns of learning support the wisdom of cultivating devotion to God early in life?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-12; Psalm 19:7-11; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Why are the words of the wise compared to "goats" and "well-driven nails"? How has God's Word both comforted and corrected you? What regular disciplines help you hear and obey Scripture rather than merely read it?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 14:10-12; Revelation 20:11-15. Why does Solomon end Ecclesiastes with the fear of God rather than the pursuit of earthly success? How should the certainty of future judgment shape your use of time, speech, relationships, and resources? How does the gospel of Jesus Christ provide hope for those who will stand before God as Judge? Every human civilization has recognized mortality and sought meaning beyond death through philosophy, religion, or memorials. How does the biblical doctrine of resurrection and final judgment uniquely answer humanity's universal awareness of death?
6. If you're wrestling with your relationship with God, here is the Gospel as clearly stated as we can: The certainty of judgment reveals our need for salvation. Scripture teaches that all have sinned (Romans 3:23) and that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Yet God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who bore the penalty for sinners through His death and rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Those who trust in Christ are justified by faith (Romans 5:1) and are no longer under condemnation (Romans 8:1). The God who judges also graciously provides redemption. May your relationship with Jesus be sure today!
7. If you're wrestling with your walk with Jesus, here is our prayer for you: "Father, we confess that we often live as though we are in control. Forgive us for trusting ourselves more than You. Teach us to rejoice in Your gifts without worshipping them, to remember our Creator while we have strength, to treasure Your Word, and to fear You with reverent obedience. Thank You for providing salvation through Jesus Christ, who died and rose again so that all who trust in Him may stand forgiven on the day of judgment. Help us live each day in the light of the truth that there is a God, and that You alone are worthy of our worship. In Jesus' name, Amen."