

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

11 January 2026

Living in View of Judgment – Ecclesiastes 12

Speaker: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Kraig Neer

This week was a culmination of the “Preacher’s” wisdom in the book of Ecclesiastes. Ted reminded us that there’s no lasting joy or satisfaction in the things of this world. Solomon states that all of life is vanity/smoke (Hebrew is hebel) - riches, work, relationships, even wisdom – unless it’s lived for Jesus.

Therefore we should live in view of the ultimate reality of God’s judgment, because

- youth is a vapor:
- life is fragile
- death is inevitable, and therefore we should
- fear and revere God

Discussion:

1. (Get the kids involved). What does it mean to view Christianity as a life insurance policy? If someone’s days are numbered, and they plan to accept Christ just before they die so they can go to heaven - what is the difference between that mentality and the mentality of the second criminal crucified alongside Jesus (Luke 23:39-43)? What are some practical ways Ted mentioned we can honor God in our youth?
2. Verses 2-8, why is it important to “remember your Creator in your youth?” Ted provided the analogy of training for a marathon. He and his friend used to say “let’s make it hurt now....” The Air Force says, “train like you fight.” What promise does God give us in James, chapter 4, along these lines?
3. What does verse 11 mean when Solomon writes, “the words of the wise are like goads...”? Think of a time when you wanted something or were thinking of doing something against the advice of someone you considered wise. What did you ultimately choose, and how did your choice ultimately make you feel?
4. One sharp truth to ultimately goad us is that everything we will do will be brought into judgement, so we should fear God. Can you explain the difference between the two types of fear: abject terror versus reverential respect? Also explain what it means to live in Coral Deo? What is a succinct way of answering someone who asks you about the hope you have (1 Pet 3:15) in the face of the reality that our every act will be judged by God (2 Cor 5:10)?
5. So what is your next step? Repentance? Baptism? Recommitting your life to Jesus? Forgiving someone?