

Let me start out – with a Great Secret – to living this life

When you get around a God Fearing - OLD MAN (or Woman)

**A person who has lived thru it all
& learned to Follow God thru it all**

**& if that Old Person WANTS to help you
by sharing HIS (or her) Godly Life Lessons**

For the Sake of YOUR life – Man, LISTEN UP

LISTEN to THEM

They may RAMBLE a little

It may take a little more time than searching GOOGLE

But – if we can get

a DOWNLOAD of Godly Wisdom

From a Godly person - at the END of their life

then WE would be a FOOL (*in every sense of the word*)

to NOT TAKE IN - All that they have to say

OLD Godly People

Tend to SPEAK LESS - - & it Tends to MEAN MORE

& often . . . if we can stop looking at our phone for 5 minutes
& if we can STOP trusting GOOGLE more than God

Then . . . this OLD Godly person

Will condense all their Real-Life Experiences
into a Short SUMMARY of Wisdom

& they will DO their BEST
To POUR that into your life

& then . . . most often . . .

we'll get a facebook notification & say, "*oh I'm sorry, hold that thought, I've got to update my status - & do a quick Instagram quote . . .*"

& then . . . we'll turn around . . . & they will be GONE

THAT is Exactly what we SEE
In the Final Words of Solomon today

DON'T MISS IT

Don't check your Phone

Don't do a Google search

Don't update your Status, or think of a good Instagram Quote

Just . . . LISTEN – with everything you have

To what the Wisest man who ever lived – has to say

At the end of his life
& as the very last thing he writes

This is IT – Solomon's life is Near the END

All his WRITINGS are DONE
All his LESSONS are FINISHED
All of his SEARCH for wisdom – COMPLETED

WHY would we NOT hang on his every word at this point?

DON'T MISS THIS

Because You're about to get a DOWNLOAD of WISDOM

From the Wisest man who ever lived
AFTER he has lived thru it all

Let's Pray

I'm going to read a TON of Scripture today

BUT – I won't need to explain all the details of each vs

BECAUSE – These FINAL WORDS of Solomon STICK
without much commentary required

IN FACT – we'll read - in a minute

Ecclesiastes 12:11 (NLT)

11 The words of the wise are like cattle prods—painful but helpful

...

& **These FINAL WORDS** of Solomon – Are **MEANT**

To **be** like a **cattle prod** – **painful** but **helpful**

We'll START our **Last Section**

WHERE the **New Thought** **STARTS**

Ecclesiastes 11:9 (NLT)

9 Young people, it's wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do.

Young People – **ENJOY** your **youth** – **BUT** Remember

you must give an account to God for everything you do

So, **Enjoy** your **youth** – **with THAT TRUTH** as your **guide**

Then - Ecclesiastes 11:10 (NLT)

10 So refuse to worry, (great counsel) and keep your body healthy (good idea). (But then comes – the GUT SHOT to all young adults) But remember that youth, with a whole life before you, is meaningless.

Solomon is **DEALING** with - "**Life Under the Sun**"

Meaning **THIS life**, on **Earth** (under the sun)

& he says here – ENJOY every minute of your YOUTH
Because – it's ALL a VAPOR

The word translated meaningless in the NLT

Means – it's just “a breath”
just “a vapor” . . . & then it's GONE

& BECAUSE of that - Solomon says

Remember – your youth will be over – as quick as
the sun burns off the Morning Mist

& AFTER the VAPOR of your Youth – AND Your LIFE

We EACH must give an Account to God
For Everything you DO

& then comes – Solomon's FINAL CRY – Starting in Ch 12

It's Solomon's CRY to Remember God

It's the CRY from an OLD WISE MAN
who FAILED to Remember God - Himself

It's a CRY from an Old Wise Man - Who TURNE
in search of ALL THINGS - “under the sun”

This is a CRY from Solomon
Saying - DON'T DO WHAT I DID !

**After Searching for ALL the WRONG things
in ALL the WRONG Places**

We **HAVE** to **Hear** the **INTENSITY** - in Solomon's **WORDS**
We **HAVE** to **Hear** the **CRY** – of Solomon's **HEART**

THIS (right here) is the CRY – that We'll Hear from Solomon
at the END of his life

REMEMBER GOD !!

Watch for THAT being Solomon's FINAL COUNSEL !!

Ecclesiastes 12:1 (NLT)

1 Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your
Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say,
"Life is not pleasant anymore."

Listen Please

Every year that passes – with you "NOT Honoring God"
It becomes Harder & Harder to – "BEGIN Honoring God"

So **Solomon's CRY** Begins with **THIS**

HONOR God in your **Youth**

Before it becomes **Harder & Harder** to **Begin Honoring Him**

Then comes this **POETIC PLEA** From Solomon
to **REMEMBER GOD**

Vs's 2-7 have to **be read** - **& heard** – **together**

We **need NO detailed explanation** as **we go** thru **these Vs's**

We **just** need - To **HEAR THIS**
& **RECEIVE THIS**

7 TIMES – In these **6 Verses**

Solomon **PLEADS** with **us**
To **REMEMBER GOD** – **Before it's TOO LATE !!**

& **The word** translated "**REMEMBER**" **Means**
to **Put GOD** – in the "**Right Place**" in **your life**

<p>It's <u>Acknowledging</u> - <u>WHO God Is</u> - <u>in</u> Your <u>Life</u> & <u>his LORDSHIP</u> - <u>over</u> your <u>Life</u></p>

Ecclesiastes 12:2-7 (NLT)

2 Remember him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky.
3 Remember him before your legs—the guards of your house—start to tremble; and before your shoulders—the strong men—stoop. Remember him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly.

4 Remember him before the door to life's opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint.

5 Remember him before you become fearful of falling and worry about danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and the caperberry no longer inspires sexual desire. Remember him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral.

6 Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well.

7 For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Solomon's CRY – At the END of his Life is

REMEMBER GOD – Before it's Too Late

REMEMBER GOD – Before it's Too Late

Acknowledge WHO God Is - &

Acknowledge His LORDSHIP over your life – Before it's too late

Could **THIS** be the **Grand Finale LESSON** from Solomon,
"Remember God Before it's Too Late" ??

After the wisest man who ever lived

Searched After - everything “*under the sun*”

Experienced - everything “*under the sun*”

Achieved – everything “*under the sun*”

After **HAVING it ALL** - & **ACHIEVING it ALL**

Could Solomon’s **Final Words of WISDOM Be**

“Remember God Before it’s Too Late” ??

YES – that is **EXACTLY**

what Solomon’s **Final Words ARE !**

WHY? – HOW did the **Wisest Man** Who ever **lived**

Come to **such** a **Relatively SIMPLE** answer?

Because he **spent** a **Lifetime**

STUDYING this life “*Under the sun*”

STUDYING This **Temporal, Fleeting Life,**

on this **Temporal, Fleeting Earth**

& **IN RESPONSE** - Solomon **BEGINS** and **ENDS Ecclesiastes**

with the **Exact same Words**

Ecclesiastes 12:8 (NLT)

8 “Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “completely meaningless.”

This is EXACTLY what Solomon wrote – in the 2nd Vs of the book

**Again – the Word translated “Meaningless”
Means Literally – a VAPOR, or a MIST**

“Everything is this temporal life is a VAPOR, it’s a MIST”

***“And when compared
to the Permanence & the Eternality of God
everything here, by comparison, is MEANINGLESS”***

But **Remember** – **SIX TIMES** in the **Book**

**Solomon has made a point of Encouraging Us
to ENJOY all that is truly GOOD in this Life**

But **he also made** it **clear**

That **even** the **GOOD** in this **Temporary Life**

is a VAPOR, when **compared** to the **Permeance of Eternity**

So now - **it’s like Solomon EXPECTS**

that his **CONCLUSION** about **LIFE**
is **going** to **ROCK US** a **little** bit

So – in **Vs’s 9-10** – He **backs up** his **Conclusion**
by **reminding us** - of his **Credentials**

Ecclesiastes 12:9-10 (NLT) → →

Ecclesiastes 12:9-10 (NLT)

9 *Keep this in mind: The Teacher (referring to himself) was considered wise, and he taught the people everything he knew. He listened carefully to many proverbs, studying and classifying them.*

10 *The Teacher sought to find just the right words to express truths clearly.*

Not only did **Solomon spend** his **life**
Studying & **Classifying WISDOM**

But **he began** the **process** **BY ASKING GOD**
for **Wisdom** above **all** other **gifts** (*in 1 Kings Ch 3*)

& **God GAVE HIM** that **Wisdom**
Along with **Riches** & **Fame** Beyond **Comparison**

& **then** – **thru-out** his life – **Solomon sought** to find
“**Just the right words**” to **express** the **truths** he had **learned**

& **I pray** – Solomon’s “**Just right words**”
Have Been like a **CATTLE PROD** For **Us** – (*as the next vs says*)

Ecclesiastes 12:11 (NLT)

11 *The words of the wise are like cattle prods—painful but helpful. Their collected sayings are like a nail-studded stick with which a shepherd drives the sheep.*

WILL WE allow “**The Good Shepherd**”
to **Prod Us** with the **Wisdom in His Word**, **here** – today?

**Will we allow The Good Shepherd – to USE the Wisdom
in Ecclesiastes - to Drive us CLOSER to Himself**

**Because THAT – is what Solomon
is TRYING to get us to do - here in his closing words**

**BUT – it's NOT just ANY Wisdom
that Drives Us to God – is it?**

Look at Ecclesiastes 12:12 (NLT)

12 But, my child, let me give you some further advice: Be careful, for writing books is endless, and much study wears you out.

This is “**Follow-Up Advice**” to **studying** the **words of the Wise** (v.11)

Solomon is saying

***“BE CAREFUL chasing after more & more of the
“words of the Wise” & their “Collected sayings” (from prev vs)
for writing books is endless, and much study wears you out”***

**There are a LOT of people
with a LOT of ideas – about WISDOM for this Life**

**Solomon says – be careful trying to study them all
Because it will NEVER END**

& **that WARNING** – right there
goes Right **WITH** Solomon's **closing point**

Because after a **LIFETIME**
of his **OWN Search** for Wisdom

Solomon is **saying** – In **His Grand Summary**

Above it all - - - REMEMBER GOD !!

Acknowledge **WHO** God is - &
Acknowledge His **LORDSHIP** over your life ??

& **then Finally** – **we reach**
the **END of the Story** - - the **END of it all**

In 1 Kings 3:12 (NLT) – God Promised to Solomon
12 . . . I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have!

& **THEN** - After a **VERY FULL Life** – of **searching out**
Wisdom & **Understanding** – in **every possible** way

THIS is Solomon's **Final Conclusion**

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NLT) → →

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NLT)

13 That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.

MAN - Will that get you

Attacked on Social Media – (not to mention in most of our culture)

The Wisest man who ever lived says

THIS is the "Whole Story"

THIS is the "Final Conclusion"

Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty

Well – THAT'S Pretty Clear – Isn't it ??

But - you might be tempted to say

"yeah, but that's just what the Bible guys say"

Actually Solomon Sought ANSWERS - in every possible AREA of life

& he Sought PLEASURE - in every possible EXPERIENCE in life

& he Searched for PEACE - in every possible PLACE in life

& THEN – After ALL THAT – After ALL of IT - He says

THIS is the "Whole Story"

THIS is the "Final Conclusion"

Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.

In **MOST Cases** - To "**Fear God**" does **NOT Mean**
To be AFRAID of him

It means - To have such a REVERENCE and AWE for God
that it effects ALL that we do

& - For the Believer – to "Fear God"
is NOT the Fear of Judgment

Instead it is the Reverence & Awe & Acknowledgement
that God IS – WHO he says He IS - &
that He is LORD – Over our Lives

& THAT Reverence for God – IMPACTS ALL of our Decisions

To "Fear God" means – that we ACKNOWLEDGE
that in a very real way

We stand before God RIGHT NOW

& we will Answer to God – for ALL that we do

Which is exactly what Solomon's follow-up vs says

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NLT) → →

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NLT)

14 God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

Part of the Fear of God is

Knowing that God's Judgment is REAL

**& THAT should be – a very real part – of what LEADS us
to Put our Faith in Jesus Christ – For Salvation**

Because we KNOW

that God IS Holy, & IS Just, & IS Righteous,

& so He MUST Judge our Sin

**BUT – in his Great Love for us – Jesus Christ came
As one of us – to Die on the Cross – In our Place**

**To Take upon himself the Judgement of God
that was required for OUR SIN**

**So that we could live in God's Presence for Eternity
CLOTHED In the Righteousness of Jesus Christ**

THAT is the Gospel Message

**& Solomon's writings - 900 years before Christ
POINT to What God would DO for us – In Jesus Christ**

→ → →

After it was all said & done
Solomon KNEW

THIS life – is NOT the PRIORITY thing
ETERNITY – is the PRIORITY thing

THIS life is a VAPOR
ETERNITY is a FOREVER

& the Bible says
ONLY through us Putting our Faith in Jesus Christ

Can we Receive the Forgiveness of our Sin
& Receive the Righteousness of God – IN Christ

SO THAT we can Spend Eternity – In Heaven – With God

THAT is why Solomon SUMS UP ALL of his Wisdom
With THIS Msg

REMEMBER GOD !!

Acknowledge WHO He is - &
Acknowledge His LORDSHIP over your life ??

THAT is the END of the Story

Let's Pray