

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

12:9-10 - The Goal of the Book:

To write words of truth that bring delight.

Challenge: Return to the book of Ecclesiastes often to weigh and study the carefully arranged wise words of the Preacher.

12:11-12 - The Utility of the Book:

First, the Word of God is to move us.

Ephesians 5:14b-16

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **making the best use of the time**, because the days are evil.

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to **wake from sleep**. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Ephesians 4:11-15

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**, so that we may **no longer** be children, **tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine**, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we are to grow up** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Second, the Word of God is to make us immovable.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, **be steadfast, immovable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

***Challenge: Are you allowing the Word of God to move you? To change you?
Are you allowing the Word of God to make you immovable?***

12:13-14 - The Final Word of the Book:

- 1. Fear God**
- 2. Keep his commandments**

For this is the whole of man.

This is the ultimate purpose of life.

How are we to understand these two commands and the judgment the Preacher attaches to them?

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 is a prime example of the “law, largely speaking”...

“The law, largely speaking, includes God’s law as well as His promise to reward obedience and punish disobedience...{it} commands perfect obedience and promises eternal life to those who obey it perfectly, but it also threatens eternal death to those who break it.” -Pastor Tom Hicks

Preaching the law, largely speaking, most often leads to legalism. Which leads to either: condemnable self-righteousness or total despair.

The other extreme from legalism is antinomianism (anti/against law). The Bible leaves no room here either...

Romans 6:1-2a

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!

So, how do we understand and apply the conclusion of the Preacher to "Fear God and keep his commandments" while avoiding legalism and antinomianism?

This is where the Gospel of Jesus Christ shines brightest!

Pastor Tom Hicks wrote this:

“...while the law, largely speaking, says ‘do this and live,’ the gospel, largely speaking, says ‘live and do this.’”

Have you trusted, by faith alone, in Christ alone for your eternal life and salvation?

If so, then you are eternally secure in Christ who perfectly obeyed the law on your behalf, died for your sins, and was raised for your justification.

Now from that place of safety and security: Fear God and keep his commandments. Not as a means of your salvation, but as a fruit of your salvation.

“We do not become righteous by doing righteous deeds but, having been made righteous, we do righteous deeds.” - Martin Luther

Also, remember God’s law is good. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Q96: Of what use are the Ten Commandments to us?

A96: They show us our duty and show us our need of a Savior.

1 John 5:1–5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?