

ECCLESIASTES 11:7 – 12:7 “REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR”

Last week Solomon taught us that the better part of spiritual wisdom is **not caution** but **COURAGE** through Christ. He really challenges us to **Do Something!**

4 He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap. **The wind is never right for the sower and the clouds are never right for the reaper.** If you are looking for an excuse for doing nothing, you can always find one.

Hey, **“nothing ventured, nothing gained.”** *“To win you’ve got to risk losing.”*

When and what we invest in the kingdom of God – our time, our talent, our treasure – it is never wasted.

So cast your bread upon the waters. Give a portion to seven, or even to eight. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand. What God will do, you never know; but you will never reap if you never sow! **A turtle doesn’t get anywhere until he sticks his neck out!**

DO SOMETHING! PRAY

Plastic Surgery: More Than 12 Billion Dollars Spent on Surgical and Nonsurgical Procedures in 2013

The top five surgical procedures were:

- Liposuction (363,912 procedures, up 16.3%)
- Breast augmentation (313,327 procedures, down 5.2%)
- Eyelid surgery (161,389 procedures, up 5.4%)
- Tummy tuck (160,077 procedures, up 2.3%)
- Nose surgery (147,966 procedures, up 2.9%)

MORE THAN TEN MILLION COSMETIC PROCEDURES EACH YEAR ALMOST NONE OF THEM MEDICALLY NECESSARY.

"As the expression goes, we spend our youth attaining wealth, and our wealth attaining youth."

Come on who wants to get old? I know I don't. **I'm at the point where if something doesn't hurt it doesn't work.**

Whether we are young or old or somewhere in between, Ecclesiastes can help us. The Preacher who wrote this book teaches us to celebrate the joys of life **at any age.**

Ecclesiastes 11:7 Truly the light is sweet, And *it is* pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; **This is Solomon's way of saying, "Life is really a privilege. Be thankful for it."** How sweet life is, and how bright are its many blessings!

8 But if a man lives many years *And* rejoices in them all,

Ryken, "What a joy it is, therefore, to live for many years – not only because we have more time to serve the Lord in sowing and reaping (Eccl. 11:1-6), but also because we have more opportunity to enjoy the goodness of life. I often remember the words of one old saint who was feeling the effects of his age. When I worried that he might be discouraged, he said, "Not at all, because with the Lord, life gets better and better!" For the faithful believer, long life is a blessing from God (Psalm 91:16)."

8 But if a man lives many years *And* rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. **we will taste what is bitter in life as well as what is sweet.** All that is coming *is* vanity.

One man notes: Some commentators think the Preacher is confused here, that he is "giving the contradictory advice that his reader should both enjoy life but also remember that he is going to die." This is not confusion but clarity. Ecclesiastes gives us a realistic view of life that is joyful about its **happy** pleasures while at the same time sober about its many sorrows. The book steadfastly refuses to

show us anything less than the whole of life as it actually is.

MAY WE ALL GREET EACH DAY LIKE THE PSALMIST DID Psalm 118:24 This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

The call to rejoice is not just for the elderly but also for the young. While old people are to praise God for the length of their days, young people are to praise God for the strength of their youth.

Verse 9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. **Young people who take care of their minds and bodies, avoid the destructive sins of the flesh, and build good habits of health and holiness have a better chance for happy adult years than those who “sow their wild oats” and pray for a crop failure.**

Solomon reminds us that every time we follow our hearts and do what looks good to us, we have to answer to God for what we have done.

The word “judgment” at the end of verse 9 is literally “the judgment”, when we stand before Christ and give an account for our lives.



Hughes wisely states, “Rejoice responsibly. Enjoy life’s pleasures, but not in sinful ways. Celebrate the gift of youth, but at the same time follow God’s commands as 2 Timothy 2:22 ... “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”



10 Therefore remove sorrow from your heart,

A **“sorry or as some translations say vexation”** is any problem that causes us to worry and concern, that “angers, grieves or irritates.” It is **“the bitterness provoked by a hard and disappointing world.”** **IT IS A CALL TO TAKE CARE OF OUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.** *Maintaining an “attitude of gratitude”*

The very best remedy for vexation is prayer, pouring our heart out to God as Philippians 4 verses 6 & 7 state, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

And put away evil from your flesh, **This is a call for a life of purity and holiness...** Again God is not a cosmic killjoy, He has never asked us to do anything that was not to benefit us in the end.

CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN ... DAD THANKS FOR TAKING ME HERE Charles Spurgeon
“Youthful sins lay a foundation for aged sorrows. “

Sadie from Duck Dynasty... “Liberals Are Outraged After What Sadie Robertson Said About Sex”. **WHAT DOES SHE SAY? SHE IS GOING TO WAIT FOR THE ONE SHE MARRIES, SHE KNOWS HER VIRGINITY IS A GIFT SHE CAN GIVE JUST ONCE. NOW THERE'S A ROLE MODEL!**

For childhood and youth *are* vanity. The phrase “childhood and youth are vanity” does not mean that these stages in life are unimportant and a waste of time. Quite the opposite is true! The best way to have a happy adult life and a contented old age is to get a good start early in life and avoid the things that will bring trouble later on.

HANNAH AND HER GROUP OF GIRLS . . .

12 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, The word translated “remember” doesn’t mean to daydream or reminisce, but rather it’s an action word that literally means “to act decisively.” That is why, throughout the Bible, when God says, “I will remember you,” He’s not merely saying, “You’re on My mind,” but rather, “I will act decisively on your behalf.”

Solomon is saying, “Act decisively and radically toward your Creator in the days when you’re young because harder days are coming.”

Remember God when at home and at school. Remember him when outside in his creation or indoors in the kitchen or the bedroom. Remember him at work and at play – playing baseball or playing the violin. Do not forget about God, but remember him in everything you do.

The rabbis say Solomon wrote the **Song of Solomon** when he was a young man, **Proverbs** as a middle-aged man, and **Ecclesiastes** as an old man. If that be so, it is no wonder that, in this last chapter of his last book, Solomon looks at the reality and the effects of aging...

Chapter 12 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth,
Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I
have no pleasure in them": 2 While the sun and the light, The moon
and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the
rain;

Verse 2 compares the troubles of old age to a gathering storm. Both night and day are darkened by clouds, and after the rain falls, the storm clouds gather again. This is what happens as people grow old. When we are young, there is still time for the sky to clear, but when we are old, we suffer one trouble after another, with little or no time to recover. The light of life grows dim. Derek Kidner says that this scene is: "somber enough to bring home to us not only the fading of physical and mental powers but the more general desolations of old age. There are many lights that are liable then to be withdrawn, besides those of the senses and faculties as, one by one, old friends are taken, familiar customs change, and long-held hopes now have to be abandoned."

A man's life expectancy in **1900** 41 years old. A man's life expectancy in **1940** 63 years old A man's life expectancy in **1980** 75 years old

→ **There are over 55,00 Americans over the age of 100**

Verses 3–7 give us one of the most imaginative descriptions of old age and death found anywhere in literature. Students don't agree on all the details of interpretation, but most of them do see here a picture of a house that is falling apart and finally turns to dust.

3 IN THE DAY WHEN THE KEEPERS OF THE HOUSE TREMBLE Your arms and hands tremble.

AND THE STRONG MEN BOW DOWN Your legs, knees, and shoulders weaken and you walk bent over.

WHEN THE GRINDERS CEASE BECAUSE THEY ARE FEW You start to lose your teeth. You know you're a redneck when your Halloween pumpkin has more teeth than you do.

AND THOSE THAT LOOK THROUGH THE WINDOWS GROW DIM Your vision begins to deteriorate cataracts or diminished vision.

4 WHEN THE DOORS ARE SHUT IN THE STREETS "The doors" are ears that are deaf or hard of hearing and thus closed to the hustle and bustle of a noisy street.

AND THE SOUND OF GRINDING IS LOW You can't chew your food, or your ears can't pick up the sounds outdoors.

WHEN ONE RISES UP AT THE SOUND OF A BIRD With age, sleep patterns are more easily disrupted. Even a bird chirping outside can waken one.

AND ALL THE DAUGHTERS OF MUSIC ARE BROUGHT LOW, "The daughters of music" are vocal cords that no longer have the elastic strength to make sweet music.

Verse **5** Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way;

WHEN THE ALMOND TREE BLOSSOMS almond tree—If you have any hair left, it turns white, like almond blossoms. Hair migrates... moves but often doesn't disappear.

Verses 3 – 5 A poem about the reality of our mortality. Then one day the crumbling old house will collapse. The Preacher prepares us for this with the image of the grasshopper in verse 5. **THE GRASSHOPPER IS A BURDEN** Grasshoppers spring into the air to avoid being eaten... so one that can spring up is a goner.

AND DESIRE FAILS, "The word rendered 'desire' is found nowhere else in the Old Testament and its meaning is disputed." (Deane) Although, Kidner states: "This is the point of the Hebrew expression, 'the caper-berry fails'. This berry was highly regarded as a stimulus to appetite and as an aphrodisiac." That little

blue pill...

FOR MAN GOES TO HIS ETERNAL HOME Eternity... you will live for eternity the question is where... Heaven? Or Hell?

And the mourners go about the streets.

Verse 6 *Remember your Creator* before **THE SILVER CORD IS LOOSED** The “silver cord” speaks of the spinal cord. Paralysis begins to set in.

OR THE GOLDEN BOWL IS BROKEN The “golden bowl” was a phrase used to describe the brain. “No brains, no headaches”

OR THE PITCHER SHATTERED AT THE FOUNTAIN This speaks of the lungs. If you are an average individual, you breathe 23,040 times every twenty-four hours, taking in 438 cubic feet of air. But eventually, you find yourself out of breath more easily as your breathing capacity diminishes with age. **DUDE, I GET WINDED PLAYING CHESS!**


OR THE WHEEL BROKEN AT THE WELL This speaks of the heart—that incredible machine that pumps blood through one 168 million miles of veins, arteries, and capillaries each and every day. **These are all memorable descriptions of death.**

7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

WE TOO ARE MADE OF DUST (GEN 2:7; PSALM 103:14), AND TO THE DUST WE SHALL RETURN.

Psalm 103:14 - He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Here is what I read at the final internment of a saint's earth suit.



BILLY IS NOT HERE! On the authority of God's word, which says, to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. What lies before us is but Billy's earthly tabernacle, the house in which he lived among us for a time. Tenderly and reverently we commit that house to the grave. **We therefore** commit **Billy's** body; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the **SURE AND CERTAIN** HOPE that the spirit which has returned unto God who gave it will be reunited with his resurrected body.

Verse 1 says, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth"

VERSE 6 SAYS, *Remember your Creator*

→ **"REMEMBER" IS LISTED CLOSE TO 300XS IN THE BIBLE WHY? people Forget DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU WILL FORGET 90% OF EVERYTHING YOU LEARN?**

Deut. 8:10 "When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. 11 **"Beware** that you do not **forget** the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, "lest--when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; "and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; **14 "when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;** 15 "who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; **He recounts again all the miracles... they needed to hear it again!!** Who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; 16 "who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end-- 17 "then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' 18 "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. 20 "As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR and going through all these passages and seeing all God had done and the pleading towards His people not the forget, I wrote this... *"God desperately desires for us to never forget Him. He, seemingly, in tears pleads for us to not forget Him. He says write my laws on your heart, write them on your foreheads, doorposts, everywhere so you don't forget me."* Even if you forget God... mental failure, walk away from Him; He will never forget you.

Why doesn't God want us to forget Him? the gospel message...
LOVE!!!

Deut. 7:7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 "but because the LORD loves you.

"Remember" is listed close to 300x's in the Bible

Scripture implies and speaks of the truth of man's forgetfulness. So we create memorials and so did God.

MEMORIAL: remembrance, records, reminder, TO PRESERVE THE MEMORY OF

Museum's, monuments & memorials

Holocaust museum VIETNAM MEMORIAL WWI and WW2 memorials

WASHINGTON MEMORIAL LINCOLN MEMORIAL Jefferson Monument

"Remember the Alamo"

END OF EVERY YEAR WE LOOK BACK

MEMORIAL SERVICES for loved ones who pass away Sept. 11th

IN MEMORY OF... WE VISIT CEMETERIES to remember Pictures (Creative memories)

We do a lot to preserve the memory of things and people but how about God and all He has done

My shadow box... and these items shall be as a memorial unto all... To God be the glory!

Bono has written: "Ecclesiastes is one of my favorite books. It's a book about a character who wants to find out why he's alive, why he was created. He tries knowledge. He tries wealth. He tries experience. He tries everything. You hurry to the end of the book to find out why, and it says, 'Remember your Creator.' In a way, it's such a letdown. Yet it isn't." No, it isn't. Getting to know our Creator before we grown old and die is the most important thing we can ever do."

As Charles Bridges once said, "Many have remembered too late – none too soon."