



June 19, 2022 | Pastor Keith Krell
Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 | "Life's Final Exam"

Sermon Application Review from Ecclesiastes 11:7–12:8

How have consciously chosen to enjoy life this past week?
How has your aging caused you to be homesick for heaven?

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 12:9–14
Proverbs 1:6–7; 9:10
Deuteronomy 10:12–22
Psalm 34:8–9
Hebrews 12:28–29
1 Corinthians 4:1–5
2 Corinthians 5:10–11

Study Questions

1. How is the description of Solomon (12:9–10) akin to the description of a scribe's work in Ezra 7:10? In what way should your life be like those of Solomon and Ezra? How is the Lord calling you to step up your own spiritual disciplines and ministry involvement?
2. When was the last time you submitted to the Bible and acted on what it says even when you did not like it (12:11)? Describe a time in your life where God used Scripture to prod you into action in a certain area of your life. How did He do that? What passage(s) did He use?
3. What does it mean to "fear God" (12:13)? How would you define this concept in your own words? What illustration or analogy could you use? In what ways do you exhibit a fear of God? Where do you need to still grow in this area? Who do you know that really seems to fear God? What can you learn from him or her?
4. Why does it seem difficult to "keep God's commands" (12:13)? How should we understand 1 John 5:3, which says that God's commandments "are not burdensome"? What about Jesus' own words, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:30)? How can you make sense of these verses when they do not seem to be true of your experience? In what area of your life do you find it the most difficult to obey God?
5. How are you preparing for your future judgment (12:14)? If Jesus were to come today and you were called to give an account of your life, would you be ready? Does a day of future reckoning motivate you or paralyze you? How can you possess a proper motivation? Read 1 Peter 4:8 and 1 John 4:17–18. What will it take for you to hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful slave" (Matthew 25:21, 23)? What changes will you make to your life in light of Ecclesiastes?

Recommended Reading

Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God* (NavPress, 1997)
Michael Reeves, *Rejoice and Tremble: The Surprising Good News of the Fear of the Lord* (Crossway, 2021)
Michael Horton, *Recovering Our Sanity: How the Fear of God Conquers the Fears that Divide Us* (Zondervan, 2022)