

**Shepherding the Wind  
Ecclesiastes 2:12-17  
Shepherding Legacy**

- **We must consider the way we live our lives. (v. 12-14a)**
- **Solomon again turns to the observation of the benefits of wisdom and folly to determine what is best for us.**
  - **He makes the case that we should live wisely.**
  - **Bartholomew comments that “biblical wisdom is about: knowing how to negotiate life with all its challenges...Wisdom thus has a double advantage: it pleases God and enables one to negotiate life successfully.”**
  - **The Bible has much to say about wisdom and its benefits (see Proverbs 1:1-7 and James 3:17-18).**
  
- **While we must consider how we live our life, death happens to each of us regardless of how we choose to live. (v. 14b-15)**
- **Death has been a reality since the fall of man.**
  - **“Death is the great democracy.” – Neil Gaiman, *The Graveyard Book***
  - **The fact of death creates a puzzle with missing pieces in the mind of Solomon as he observes life “under the sun”.**
  - **Hebrews 9:27: “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...”**
  
- **Death should cause us to consider our legacy. (v. 16)**
- **Psalm 90 (the great prayer of Moses and a psalm that helps us to consider our “vapor-like” nature) compares the eternity of God and the fragility of mankind. (see verses 1-4, 10, and 12).**
  - **We will all leave something behind; the only question is what will that be.**
  
- **In the end, leaving a legacy isn’t enough. (v. 16-17)**
- **Living well and leaving a legacy doesn’t mean that those who follow you will live the same kind of life (see 2 Chronicles 26-28:1-4, comparison of Uzziah, Jotham, and Ahaz).**
  - **This doesn’t mean that living well and thinking about your legacy aren’t worthwhile, but living wisely and leaving a legacy cannot be the ultimate thing in our lives.**
  - **If we look to those things to experience deep satisfaction and purpose in life, we will be disappointed.**
  - **The only legacy that will matter is a legacy of faith in Jesus.**