

**THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE**  
**Ecclesiastes 12:9-12:14**

**While living, it is essential to...**

**1. Use your gifts to help others**

*And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. (9)*

**2. Never stop searching for truth**

*The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth. (10)*

**3. Learn from pain and others**

*The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. (11)*

**4. Stay balanced**

*And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh. (12)*

**5. Revere God deeply**

*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:  
Fear God and keep His commandments,  
For this is man's all. (13)*

**6. Trust in Jesus**

*For God will bring every work into judgment,  
Including every secret thing,  
Whether good or evil. (14)*