

"Advantages of Surrendering to Christ in the Prime of Life"

Introduction

- 1. King Solomon addresses themes of vanity, uncertainty, and divine sovereignty in the human experience in the first eleven chapters.
- 2. In chapter 12, he urges surrender to God during the youth stage of life.
- 3. Solomon supports this counsel by providing several reasons for remembering God early in life.

Why in the prime?

- 1. It's the most productive stage of life for the sake of God.
- 2. Before the difficult days come

Ecclesiastes 12:1

<u>Remember</u> now <u>your</u> Creator in the days of your youth,

Before the <u>difficult days come</u>, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":

Why in the prime?

2. Before the difficult days come

- 2. While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain;
- 3. In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim;

- Why in the prime?
- 3. Before the difficult days come

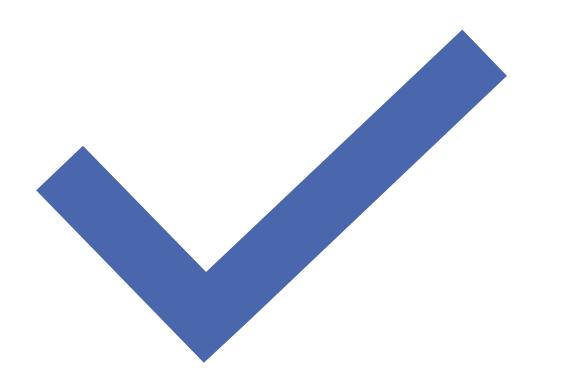
- 4. When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low.
- 5. Also they are afraid of height, And of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.

- Why in the prime?
- 4. Because
 death will
 follow the
 difficult days

- 6. Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well.
- 7. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.
- 8. "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity."

- Why in the prime?
- 5. Would have enjoyed a long-standing relationship before time of death

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Complete Next Week

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