

# THINGS I WANT TO DO WHILE I CAN

*November 24, 2019*

**Ecclesiastes 11:8** However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many. Everything to come is meaningless.

## I. THREE THINGS I WANT TO DO WHILE I CAN

### *1. Live Well: Enjoy Today*

**Ecclesiastes 1:2** “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

**Ecclesiastes 3:12-13** I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

**Ecclesiastes 3:22** So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

**Ecclesiastes 5:19** Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

**Ecclesiastes 8:15** So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.

**Ecclesiastes 9:9** Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.

**Ecclesiastes 11:9** You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see,

### **A. A word to the young**

1) *You have a life. Enjoy it.*

2) *You have a purpose. Make the most of what is in your heart.*

**Psalms 139:13-18** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- You won't find true purpose until Jesus is Lord.

**Psalms 37:3-4** Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**Ecclesiastes 11:10** So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.

**Ecclesiastes 11:4-6** Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

- Do not let the fear of what may be ahead keep you from taking the first step.

## B. A word to the old

**Ecclesiastes 12:1-7** Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"— before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint; when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets. Remember Him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

1) *Treasure the days of the past.*

2) *Enjoy the days of the present.*

**Ecclesiastes 11:8** However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many. Everything to come is meaningless.

- Do what you have to do.

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

3) *Speak Life.*

- Do not allow the tensions of the culture to dictate the status of the relationships in your life.
- Your life can bring life to another.

## ***2. Die Well: Live for Tomorrow***

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**Ecclesiastes 11:9** You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

### **A. Don't forget about judgement.**

### **B. Don't forget about your legacy.**

**Ecclesiastes 7:1-2** A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth. It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart.

**Ecclesiastes 12:8** "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless!"

### **C. Don't forget about eternity.**

## ***3. Remember the Creator***

### **A. Remember Him in your youth.**

**Ecclesiastes 12:1** Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them”—

## **B. Remember Him in your old age.**

- 1) *When you do not remember, you forget.*
- 2) *When you do not remember, you leave treasures behind.*
- 3) *When you do not remember, you miss out on what is ahead.*

## **C. Remember His faithfulness in the past.**

**Micah 6:4-5** I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

## **D. Remember Him in the hard times.**

**Zechariah 10:9** Though I scatter them among the peoples, yet in distant lands they will remember me. They and their children will survive, and they will return.

## **E. Remember Him in the good times.**

**Isaiah 46:9-10** Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’

## **F. Remember Him tonight.**

**Psalms 63:6-8** On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

## **G. Remember Him today.**

**Nehemiah 4:14** After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

- *Live life today while you can!*