

Ecclesiastes: *The Vanity of Life Under the Sun*

Ecclesiastes 12:9-13

Introduction

The preacher's credentials

❖ **Ecclesiastes 12:9-10**

1. Who is speaking in this passage? Has Solomon handed the rest of Ecclesiastes off to some unknown narrator?
 - ❖ Matthew 17:22—*As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."*
2. Is Solomon boasting? Why does he tell us about all the great things he's written and about how wise he is?

The value of wisdom

❖ **Ecclesiastes 12:11**

❖ **Psalm 23**

- ❖ John 10:11—*I am the good shepherd*

❖ **Ecclesiastes 12:12**

The final analysis

❖ **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

▶ *Two Commandments*

1. Fear God

The believer's fear of God—"a holy inclination of the heart, generated by God in the hearts of His children, whereby they, out of reverence for God, take careful pains not to displease God, and earnestly endeavor to please Him in all things."¹

2. Keep God's commandments

(1) Moral law

¹ http://www.qbchurch.org/sermons/fear/20090607-www.qbchurch.org-fear-part_12.pdf

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- ❖ Matthew 22:37-40—*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

(2) Civil law

(3) Ceremonial law

▶ Two Reasons to obey his commandments

1. Because its the whole duty of man

What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.²

2. Because you will one day face judgment

❖ **Ecclesiastes 12:14**

- ❖ Jude 24—*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,*

- ❖ Ephesians 5:25-27—*Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish*

² http://www.shortercatechism.com/resources/wsc/wsc_001.html