

Ecclesiastes VIII

Remembering the Creator

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

- I. AT THY YOUTH (Ecclesiastes 12:1-5)
 - a. Remembering for Salvation (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
 - i. Receiving Salvation
 1. Believing on the name of Christ (Romans 10:9-10)
 2. That we might have peace through Him (Romans 5:1-2)
 3. That we might have eternal life (John 11:25-26)
 - ii. At an early age
 1. Isaac Watts was saved at the age of nine (9) – Preacher & Hymnwriter
 2. Jonathan Edwards saved at the age of eight (8) – Preacher
 3. John R. Rice saved at the age of four (4) – Preacher
 - b. Remembering for Life (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
 - i. To be an example of the believer (1 Timothy 4:12; Jeremiah 9:23-24)
 - ii. Obtained by diligent hard work (Proverbs 22:6)
 - iii. Remember Him, that created you, that clothes, feeds, and loves you (John 1:3-4, 9-10)
 - iv. Remember the word of the Lord for instructions' sake (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - v. That you might have a blessed and long life (Ephesians 6:2-3)
 - vi. To avoid the pitfalls of the world (Proverbs 1:7, 10-19)
 - c. Before the Evil Days Come (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
 - i. When it will be said, "I have no pleasure in them." (Psalm 90:10)
 - ii. When it's not possible (2 Samuel 19:33-35)
 1. Today is the time to serve the Lord.
 - a. You may never grow old
 - b. Infirmities of the flesh will pile on and press down both the body and mind, the oppressed nature has enough to do to bear its own infirmities; and as there is *little time*, so there is generally *less inclination*, to call upon the Lord.
 2. Future will hold surprises
 - a. Cares and woes of life will compile themselves.
 - b. If you're not willing to serve now, you probably will not serve then. "*Evil*" habits are strengthened by long continuance; and every desire and appetite in the soul is a strong-hold for Satan.

- d. The Example of Evil Days (Ecclesiastes 12:2-6)
- i. The Weariness and Trouble of Age in Body (Ecclesiastes 12:2-4)
 1. (v. 2) *“While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened,...* (i.e., in the spring, prime, and prosperity of life.)
 2. (v. 2) *“nor the clouds return after the rain”* (i.e., The infirmities of old age, of which winter is a proper picture, as spring is of youth.)
 3. (v. 3) *“In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble,”* (i.e., The *body* of man is here compared to a house) – (2 Corinthians 5:1)
 4. (v. 3) *“the keepers of the house shall tremble”* (i.e. the elderly many times become unstable in their ability to hold things, they become shaky many times, their footing is not what it was as a young person.
 5. (v. 3) *“the strong men shall bow themselves”* (i.e. the man that was at one time strong and vibrant has now become old and hunched over) – (Psalm 90:9-10)
 6. (v. 3) *“the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out the windows be darkened”* (i.e. the teeth have become weak and become few, the eyes are not as clear as they once were and glasses or contacts are needed.) – (1 Kings 14:4)
 7. (v. 4) *“The doors be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low”* (i.e. The mouth and teeth are used in chewing and eating the food that is consumed, but alas even eating has become a weariness of the flesh) – (2 Samuel 19:35)
 - ii. The Weariness and Trouble of Age in Surroundings (Ecclesiastes 12:4-5)
 1. The Inability to Discern (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (2 Samuel 19:35)
 - a. The voice of the bird
 - b. The hearing of music and words
 2. Afraid of that which is high (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
 - a. Being feeble, they are afraid of ascending stairs, climbing a stool, etc. without help.
 - b. When they attempt to look up, they may lose their balance.
 3. Fearful of that in the way (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
 - a. They dare not go out, lest something they cannot repel, take hold of them.
 - b. The fear that they had as a child has now come full circle.
 4. *“The almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper”* is a burden (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
 - a. The almond tree has white (white-ish) blossoms and is a great picture of the hoary (white) head, hence you have a fit type of the older/elderly here.

- b. Even a grasshopper can become a burden because their strength is so diminished.
 - 5. Their desire shall fail (Ecclesiastes 12:5)
 - a. The things that once brought pleasure is no longer important
 - b. Appetite, food and drink, pleasures of life do not bring the pleasures they once brought.
 - 6. “Because Man Goeth to His Long Home, and the Mourners about the Streets”
 - a. Death has taken hold upon the man (Psalm 49:10-14; Hebrews 9:27)
 - b. Mourners (paid and unpaid mourners) were a common practice in the Jewish culture (Genesis 50:3-10; Mark 5:38-39)
- II. AT THY DEATH (Ecclesiastes 12:6-8)
 - a. The Giving Up of Life
 - i. The pitcher be broken
 - 1. These earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7)
 - 2. Vessels of gold and silver (2 Timothy 2:20-21)
 - a. Striving to be the right kind of vessel
 - b. To be a vessel unto honour
 - ii. The wheel broken at the cistern
 - 1. The body does not move like it once did
 - 2. The circulation (blood flow) slows and stops
 - iii. The dust returns to the earth (Ecclesiastes 3:20)
 - iv. The spirit returns to God (Ecclesiastes 3:21; Luke 23:46)
 - 1. God is the God of all spirits (Numbers 27:16)
 - 2. God forms the spirit of man (Zechariah 12:1)
 - b. Reflecting on the Vanity of Life
 - i. All is vanity in this life (earthly view – “under the sun”)
 - ii. Our labour in the Lord is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- III. WITH WISDOM (Ecclesiastes 12:9-11)
 - a. The Preacher Taught the People (Ecclesiastes 12:9)
 - i. With knowledge
 - ii. Setting out many proverbs (1 Kings 4:32; Proverbs 1:1-6)
 - b. Teaching Words of Truth (Ecclesiastes 12:10-11)
 - i. The preacher sought to find acceptable words
 - 1. Praying for the right words (Psalm 119:18)
 - 2. Seeking the right words (2 Timothy 2:15)

- ii. Teaching the words of the wise
 - 1. Words of the wise – as goads
 - a. *Goads – goad*: a long pole (6-8') that has a pick on the end – hook or point to prod cattle and keep them moving
 - b. Shamgar the son of Anath slew 600 Philistines with an ox goad (Judges 3:31)
 - 2. As nails fastened by the masters of assemblies – Solomon “assembled” all the leaders and prayed to God before them in 1 Kings chapter 8. (1 Kings 8:1, 59)

IV. AT THE CONCLUSION (Ecclesiastes 12:12-14)

- a. The Admonishment to His Son
 - i. To heed the words given (Ecclesiastes 12:12; Proverbs 2:1)
 - ii. There is no end of writing and reading (Ecclesiastes 12:12)
 - iii. Learning is a weariness to the flesh, but is good for the mind, soul, and spirit.
- b. The Need for Judgment
 - i. Fear God – because judgment is coming (Ecclesiastes 7:18)
 - 1. He that fears God “shall come forth of them all”
 - 2. God will bring every work into judgment (Ecclesiastes 12:14)
 - ii. Keep His commandments
 - 1. It is the whole duty of man
 - 2. It shows your heart (Philippians 2:12)
 - 3. It shows where your love lies (John 14:15)
- c. All Works Will Be Made Known
 - i. Judged by God (Ecclesiastes 12:14)
 - ii. With every secret thing
 - iii. Whether they are good or bad
 - 1. Judged by Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:16)
 - 2. To give account of what we’ve done (Romans 14:10, 12)
 - 3. To be made manifest what we’ve done (1 Corinthians 4:5)
 - 4. At the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - 5. At the Great Throne Judgment (for the lost) (Revelation 20:11-15)