



Life Calls for Decision

Ecclesiastes 11:1–12:14

Commit to a life of faith 11:1-4

- Eccl 11:1-4 Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. ² Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.
- ³ If the clouds are full of rain, They empty *themselves* upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie. ⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.
 - Commit to bold choices now.. benefits will take many days
 - As you are blessed be a generous person of compassion
 - Life is unpredictable.. don't put off opportunities

Faith enables us to live with mysteries of providence **11:5-8**

- 11:5-8 As you do not know what *is* the way of the wind (spirit), *Or* how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike *will be* good.
- ⁷ Truly the light is sweet, And *it is* pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun;
⁸ But if a man lives many years *And* rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming *is* vanity.
 - We cannot know the inner mysteries of life or control the future
 - Giving ourselves to responsibilities will bring joy/contentment

Faith encourages cheerfulness with sober control **11:9-10**

- 11:9-10 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. ¹⁰ Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth *are* vanity.
 - The young are meant for a life of true joy
 - Joy is to be in light of God's judgment
 - Faith removes sorrow of heart/weakness of flesh

Seek God in early life **12:1-5**

- **12:1-5** Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”:² While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain..
 - Keepers of the house tremble (protection of the arms)
 - Strong men bow down (legs grow weak)
 - Grinders cease because they are few (losing teeth)
 - Those that look through windows dim (poor eyesight)
 - Sound of grinding is low (loss of hearing)
 - Light sleep/enjoyment of music/fears/physical frailty
- **5** For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets.

Remember God before the finality of death **12:6-8**

- 12:6-8 *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.”
 - Value/sacredness of human life are ended by death
 - Death is final/pieces cannot be put together again
 - Body returns to its origin (dust)/spirit returns to God

Epilogue: The Preacher's biography

12:9-12

- 12:9-12 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. ¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and *what was* written *was* upright—words of truth. ¹¹ The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. ¹² And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books *there is* no end, and much study *is* wearisome to the flesh.
 - The Preacher wanted to teach and write words of truth
 - Words of the wise come from the One Shepherd
 - Take heed to these, but beware of anything beyond these

The Final Message **12:13-14**

- 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.
 - Fear God (realize His greatness, blessings, justice)
 - Keep His commands (words of One Shepherd)
 - God gives generously/will judge knowingly
- Let men: Live in faith/Rejoice/Remember/Fear



Life Calls for Decision

Ecclesiastes 11:1–12:14