

# To the Young and the Old Notes

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

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November 16-17, 2024

**Main Point:** Don't waste your life trying not to die; spend your life living for the One who died for you.

## If you're young, remember the Lord so you're ready to live (12:1).

1. Chapter 12 tells us what to embrace.
2. In English, the word "remember" means, "to \_\_\_\_\_, to mark, to set aside."
3. In Hebrew, "remembering" is not just bringing something back to mind; it implies a change of \_\_\_\_\_, so our lives line up with what we've been reminded of.
4. To remember is "to \_\_\_\_\_ and own for ourselves."
5. We need to remember because we tend to \_\_\_\_\_ God's faithfulness and neglect our faith.
6. Your worth and value is intrinsic because you have been created in the \_\_\_\_\_ and likeness of God.
7. You don't have to work to establish your worth; you already have \_\_\_\_\_ because of Him who made you.
8. The main reason you've been created is to show forth God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 43:7).
9. Since you are the product of divine design, you have been created with \_\_\_\_\_, value, and worth.
10. God designed you for His \_\_\_\_\_ and He made you on purpose for His purposes.
11. The word "youth" refers to the teens and twenties (Lamentations 3:27).
12. The young person must learn to endure \_\_\_\_\_ and work responsibility.
13. The word "days" reminds us that each day is a gift from God that is not to be \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The word "evil" refers to \_\_\_\_\_ or infirmities.

## If you're older, revere the Lord so you're ready to die.

1. *in the day when the keepers of the house tremble*
  - the keepers of the house refer to trembling \_\_\_\_\_ and hands, which previously provided a strong defense.
  - The word "tremble" means, "to \_\_\_\_\_" because our muscles are not what they used to be.
2. *and the strong men are bent* – legs, knees, and back weaken while the body begins to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. *and the grinders cease because they are few* – this refers to losing our \_\_\_\_\_.
4. *and those who look through the windows are dimmed* – our \_\_\_\_\_ begins to fade.
5. *and the doors on the street are shut* – some end up becoming \_\_\_\_\_ and feel like they have been abandoned by others.
  - Geriatricians suggest that loss of function leads to a loss of independence, which can lead to boredom, loneliness, helplessness, frustration, and even bitterness.
6. *when the sound of the grinding is low* – in that culture, the sound of grinding grain was an everyday occurrence. Because of diminished \_\_\_\_\_, sounds that were once clear become hard to make out and words need to be repeated.
7. *and one rises up at the sound of a bird* – as we age, we get up \_\_\_\_\_ and earlier
8. *and all the daughters of song are brought low* – this could refer either to music being hard to hear or to our voice weakening
9. *they are afraid also of what is high* – it's common for us as we age to become afraid of \_\_\_\_\_ from high places.

10. *and terrors are in the way* – many older people develop \_\_\_\_\_ they never had before, like driving at night
11. *the almond tree blossoms* – when an almond tree blossoms, everything turns white, just like our \_\_\_\_\_.
12. *the grasshopper drags itself along* – a grasshopper normally jumps high and is very agile, so when it drags itself close to the ground you know it's nearing the end.
  - The word “*drags*” refers to enduring with \_\_\_\_\_ or walking with a slow gait.
13. *and desire fails* – many older people experience a loss of \_\_\_\_\_ and other desires wane.
14. *because man is going to his eternal home* – since death is coming, it's important to get ready. Solomon reminds us that this is not our \_\_\_\_\_ because we're headed to our “*eternal home*” (2 Corinthians 5:1)
15. *and the mourners go about the streets* – in that culture, professional mourners were hired for funerals. I've heard many seniors say that all they do is go to \_\_\_\_\_.
16. *before the silver cord is snapped* – some think this refers to our spinal \_\_\_\_\_.
17. *or the golden bowl is broken* – commentators believe this symbolizes our \_\_\_\_\_.
18. *or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain*
  - the word “*shattered*” means to be broken into \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The word “*fountain*” reminds us our \_\_\_\_\_ will be poured out like water (2 Samuel 14:14, Philippians 2:17).
19. *or the wheel broken at the cistern* – some commentators believe this phrase refers to the \_\_\_\_\_ system and the ventricles of the heart
20. *and the dust returns to the earth as it was* – due to Adam's descent into depravity, every one of us will die and our bodies will return to \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 3:19).
21. *and the spirit returns to God who gave it* – as we learned last week from Ecclesiastes 11:5, God brings the spirit “*to the bones in the womb of a woman with child.*” When we die, our spirit returns to God.
  - The period of youthfulness is fleeting, and life itself is futile and fragile. \_\_\_\_\_ is temporary and fleeting, like a wisp of smoke.

### Action Steps

1. Celebrate a senior every day.
2. Keep growing in Christ whatever season you're in (1 Timothy 4:12, Psalm 92:14-15).
3. Get involved in Intentional Discipleship.
4. Make sure you're serving, no matter what season you are in.
5. It's not too early if you're young, nor is it too late if you're old, to get saved (Psalm 136:23).