



The End of the Matter

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14
November 21, 2021

The Big Idea: We're all growing older and will eventually die. It is important to turn to the Lord while we **still can**. Solomon's discovery after his search for meaning in life is this: When all is said and done, God is the only One who can satisfy the **human heart**.

Ecclesiastes 12 (ESV)

12 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; ²before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, ³in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, ⁴and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— ⁵they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— ⁶before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, ⁷and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. ⁸Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

AN OBVIOUS TRUTH THAT NEEDS THE ATTENTION OF US ALL: *We Are All Growing Older and Need to Turn to God While We Still Can.*

⁹Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care.

¹⁰The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

¹¹The *words of the wise are like goads*, and *like nails* firmly fixed are the collected sayings; **they are given by one Shepherd**. ¹²My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

A SECOND TRUTH: *Truth can **sting** and **guide** us at the same time. The Great Shepherd is the one who gives us truth.*

¹³The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God** and **keep his commandments**, *for this is the whole duty of man*. ¹⁴For *God will bring every deed into judgment*, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD:

- ✓ Unbelievers will be judged for their **sins** – the ultimate one being their rejection of Christ. [Romans 2:11-16; Revelation 20:11-15]
- ✓ Believers will stand perfect in Christ before the Lord by grace through faith, but accountable to Him for their **lives**. [Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15]

3 Questions:

- Are you walking down any of the dead-ends that will only lead to grief and disappointment?
- Have you experienced the truth revolution that will alter your whole being – that life doesn't revolve around you, but around the Lord?
- Are you keeping the commandments of the Lord (not to **be** saved, but **because** you're saved)?

"The final message of Ecclesiastes is not that nothing matters but that everything does."

Philip Ryken
