

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

3 Lessons On How The Pursuit Of
Education Impacts Our Lives



Background/Context

- Author: King David's son, Solomon (reigned approx. 900 years before birth of Jesus)
- Audience: Nation of Israel (book written 950 BC)
- Setting: After a lifetime of searching for truth and meaning, Solomon discovered life without a relationship with God is empty and meaningless
- Meaning and truth are found through a personal relationship with Jesus

The Pursuit of Education Is Noble And Honorable

- (vv. 9-10) Solomon stated due to the influence of wisdom, even in old age he sought to keep learning
- Education, knowledge are worthwhile and add value to life
- Attaining knowledge requires effort and struggle; often means being uncomfortable with new things
- Those who become lifetime students are wise

- Prov. 23:12, “Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge.”
- Prov. 24:3-4, “Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”



The Pursuit Of Education Has Benefits And Dangers

- (vv. 11-12) Solomon continues lesson; while education is noble, also has many dangers
- (v.11) Education is great motivator, but by itself it can be empty and void
- “goad” – pointed rod used to “direct” animal
- “well-driven nails” – barbed wire like device used by Shepherds to keep sheep from wandering into dangerous territory
- (v. 12) Education can be wearisome without connection to God

- Psalm 111:10, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...”
- Psalm 14:1, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”



Education Is To Lead To Divine Conclusions

- (vv. 13-14) Solomon here summed up entire book; chief end of life and study is to have relationship with God and grow in that relationship
- One of goals of education is for limited knowing people to seek and know an all-knowing God
- Also; go to God and His word and have it as a foundation for life and work

- I Cors. 8:1, “Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.”
- Acts 4:13, “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

