

Thursday—Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-12. Here Solomon is saying some final words and citing some important sources for his wisdom. What is Solomon’s primary source? What do you think he wants for us according to verse 10? What is he saying about all he has written? A goad is something you use to get an animal moving. What is the image of the goad in verse 11 designed to illustrate? Solomon is encouraging you and me to take action while it is still called today! We may hear many things but he is saying to us that his words are the truth and God is calling us to listen!

Friday— Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. So what does all this boil down to? How does this relate to you and me? What does Solomon mean when he calls us to “fear the Lord?” What are we supposed to be afraid of? What happens with all those secret things we’ve done, said or thought according to verse 14? My brothers and sisters, I believe Solomon has made an air tight case for doing what God says so things will go well with us. Are you willing to believe that? Live life to the fullest, hold nothing back, love people with all your might and continue to place your hand in God’s as He leads us all with love and care into a future He has already ordained. To God be all the Glory!

Life... Live the Great Adventure

Ecclesiastes 11 & 12

Introduction

Live like you’re dying!

1. Be _____... knowing that life is _____ and is never _____ (11:1-7)
2. Be _____ about _____ and stop living for “ _____ ”... knowing that in a few moments the sun is going to set (11:8-12:8)
3. Be _____ to what is _____... knowing that life is a school and we all have much to learn (12:9-12)
4. Be _____ and be _____... knowing that the secret to satisfaction is as simple as that (12:13-14)

Conclusion

To God be all the Glory!

Sunday, September 6, 2009

by Jason Whalen, Senior Pastor

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...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

Last words are lasting words! This past Sunday we studied Solomon's final words, the final thoughts of one extraordinary life and from an extraordinary teacher. In this passage Solomon reduces life to its bare essentials which are to be generous with our stuff, be passionate about life, be committed to what's true and be afraid of being outside the will of God. This has been a powerful study for me and I trust that it has helped you form a new appreciation, a new attitude for where God has you and what He's teaching you. Let's go back to the conclusion of Solomon's journal and see these ideas sink even deeper!

Monday—Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-7. Do you remember what the metaphor of verse 1 is referring to? What does it mean that “we will find it after many days?” In Hebrew culture and literature that number seven signified completion of perfection, the sum total of an experience. In our culture we might say “that movie was a ten.” In their culture they would summarize the same movie by saying “that movie was a seven.” With that understanding, what do you think Solomon is saying in verse 2? Does this describe your attitude in generosity? In verse 3 Solomon is underscoring the point that circumstances will never be ideal for generosity! How are you being generous these days with your time, talent or treasure? There isn't much time left so let's get into the business of blessing!

Tuesday—Read Ecclesiastes 11:8-10. What is Solomon trying to teach us? What is he specifically saying in verse 8? What does Solomon mean by “the days of darkness will be many?” With all that as backdrop, what is verse 9 challenging us to appreciate? Why does Solomon end verse 9 with a warning about the judgment of God? Solomon wants us to live while it is still called “today.” Is that your attitude or are you not living today because you are waiting for someday? Solomon doesn't want you to miss a moment so he, again, challenges you to live the life you have and take it for all it's worth.

Wednesday—Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-8. This is a very difficult chapter to read because it is graphic with respect to the aging process. Let me give you a brief summary of what all these symbols mean for your further study and growth (adapted from *Be Satisfied* by Warren Wiersbe):

keepers of the house — your arms and hands tremble

strong men — your legs, knees, and shoulders weaken and you walk bent over

grinders — you start to lose your teeth

windows — your vision begins to deteriorate

doors — either your hearing starts to fail, or you close your mouth because you've lost your teeth

grinding — you can't chew your food, or your ears can't pick up the sounds outdoors

rise up — you wake up with the birds early each morning, and wish you could sleep longer

daughters of song/music — your voice starts to quiver and weaken

afraid — you are terrified of heights and afraid of falling while you walk down the street

almond tree — if you have any hair left, it turns white, like almond blossoms

grasshopper — you just drag yourself along, like a grasshopper at the close of the summer season

desire fails — you lose your appetite, or perhaps your sexual desire

eternal home — you go to your eternal home and people mourn your death

Why is Solomon being so detailed about a very challenging time in a child of God's life? What does he hope to motivate them to do? Pray and ask God to keep you completely in touch with His purpose for your life, no matter your age!