



Ecclesiastes

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Lesson 23 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 12: 9-14

Pray

Review – In **verses 12: 9-12**, the Preacher prods us towards true wisdom. The third picture of life that he wants us to see is this: Life is a school.

Remember, Solomon has been admonishing us through pictures of life... that parallel the 4 arguments concerning life under the sun that he examined from every angle. So are, the 2 pictures and admonishments we have studied are:

1. Life is an adventure... so we must live by faith. **(11: 1-6)**
2. Life is a gift: enjoy it. How? By rejoicing in each new day as a gift from God. Remove anxiety out of your heart by living according to God's will, thus keeping evil from your flesh. **(11: 7- 12: 8)** And remember your Creator, both in your youth and in your old age!

Reflect

1. Read **verses 12: 9-12**. What is the 3rd picture and the admonishment that goes with it?
2. Read **verses 12: 13-14**. We see the 4th picture, that life is a stewardship! What are we admonished to do? What is man's all to do?
3. We don't own our lives, because life is the gift of God. Read **Acts 17: 24-28**. What do we know from these verses?

Respond

1. In the school of life, we will all be teacher and student. So, it's important for us to understand how to proclaim God's truth. He gives us instructions in **verses 9-12**. A person should:
 - a. V 9
 - b. V 10a

c. V 10b

d. V 11a

e. V 11b

f. V 12b

Do you proclaim the Word? How do Solomon's instructions speak to your heart?

2. Read **Psalm 119: 97-104**. As you make your way through the school of life, is your heart attitude toward the Word of God the same as the psalmist. Why or why not?

3. The Preacher has lead us to the conclusion of the matter. We will take good care of our gift of life, if we do the three things Solomon admonishes all to do. Write out the 3 *admonishments*. Take a moment to reflect on them.

4. Do you really fear God? What does it mean to fear God? Consider a heart the fears God by writing out and meditating on the following scriptures:

Isaiah 66: 2-3

1 Peter 2: 17

Acts 9: 31

Malachi 3: 16-17

If you do not have a fear of God, will you keep His commandments and prepare for final judgment? In your own words, write why it is necessary to fear God.

5. So, lets get back to the questions we asked in the very beginning of this study. Is life worth living? If you are truly alive through faith in Jesus Christ; you can be satisfied, no matter what God may permit to come into your life.

Write out **1 John 5: 12**.

Write out a prayer to God, thanking Him for His gift of life through Jesus Christ our Lord: abundant life... eternal life... resurrection life!

And let's be satisfied!