

# It's a Matter of Judgment (Ecclesiastes 12)

# I. The Plea, 1

# 1: remember now your Creator

- Remember: more than mere recall (there is a Creator)
  - Recognizes our Creator is sovereign
  - Remember is spelled “obedience”

<sup>19</sup> And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. <sup>20</sup> So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, *“Because I have asked for him from the Lord”* – 1 Samuel 1

# 1: remember now your Creator

- Remember
- Creator:
  - Plural of excellence, or foreshadow of Godhead

# 1: remember now your Creator

- Remember
- Creator
- Days of youth:
  - Incredibly crude to offer leftovers of our life to God after giving our best years to satan
  - Young people remember . . .
    - Who made you
    - Why He made you

# 1: remember now your Creator

- Remember
- Creator
- Days of youth
- **Difficult (evil) days coming...**
  - You will NOT always be young
  - 2:12, Solomon sought pleasure in youth

I. The Plea, 1

II. The Picture, 2-5

# Sun and light...darken

- Light: joy; God's favor
- Darken (11:7-8): rainy season, clouds...
  - Picture of broken-down house

<sup>1</sup> For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven – 2 Co.5



# Sun and light...darken

- Light: joy; God's favor
- Darken (11:7-8): rainy season, clouds...
  - Picture of broken-down house

<sup>13</sup> Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,<sup>14</sup> knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. – 2 Pt.1

# This old house...

- Keepers tremble
- Strong men bow
- Grinders cease
- Look out windows
- Doors shut
- Rise at sound of bird
- Daughters of music brought low
- Afraid of height...
- Almost blossoms
- Grasshopper is burden
- Desire fails

Man goes to eternal  
home

Ct. ch.3 / 9.

After breakdown of body

Mourners go about  
streets...

Hired? Procession?

Don't wait...

I. The Plea, 1

II. The Picture, 2-5

III. The Preparation, 6-7

## 6: golden bowl...silver cord

- Death: untying / breaking of the chain
  - Silver cord: thread of life that keeps body from failing
  - Bowl: body itself
- Pitcher lowered down well: wheel breaks... life is fragile

## 7: drops imagery: soul continues...

- Soul returns to God
- Death: body returns to dust. Reverses Gn.2:7; fulfills 3:19

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being – Gen.2

<sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return – Gen.3

## 7: drops imagery: soul continues...

- Soul returns to God
- Death: body returns to dust. Reverses Gn.2:7; fulfills 3:19
- Spirit has distinct destiny: life after death
- Point: 3:17, time to remember Creator is before hour of death.
  - Lk.23:46 ... Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit.
  - Ac.7:59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

I. The Plea, 1

II. The Picture, 2-5

III. The Preparation, 6-7

IV. The Preacher, 8-12

Preacher: 7x in Eccl.; 3x in ch.12

- 8: vanity (= 1:2)
  - There is a last time for every job.
  - Nothing under the sun is ours to keep.
    - Job 1
    - Lk.16

<sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal – 2 Cor.4



Preacher: 7x in Eccl.; 3x in ch.12

- 9: preacher's credentials
  - Wise: skilled, 'learned sage'
  - Preacher: taught knowledge
  - Student: weighed, studied, arranged proverbs...
- 10: produced written material; pleasing and accurate.
  - 'Upright': Solomon believed all he wrote

Preacher: 7x in Eccl.; 3x in ch.12

- 11: all such works are . . .
  - Goad: rod with iron spike, sharpened at end to drive oxen. Ac.26:14
    - Spur us to <sup>1</sup>learn good, <sup>2</sup>avoid evil, <sup>3</sup>go in right direction.
    - Words stick in our memory.
    - Pricked conscience.
  - Well-driven nails: hold on; anchor for soul. Stick in memory. Is.22:23
  - Given by one Shepherd: inspiration. Ps.80:1

Preacher: 7x in Eccl.; 3x in ch.12

- 12: many books
  - Don't waste your time; be selective
    - Trivial books, TV, internet...
    - Deceptive books.

“But beyond this, my son, be warned” – NASB

“My son, beware of anything beyond these” – ESV

- Inspired words deserve our time...

I. The Plea, 1

II. The Picture, 2-5

III. The Preparation, 6-7

IV. The Preacher, 8-12

V. The Purpose, 13-14

# The conclusion (end): two parts

- Fear God, keep His commandments.
  - Lk.10:38-42
  - **Fear**: respect / awe based on faith in holy God. Ph.2:12
  - Fear is proven genuine by **obedience**.
- This is man's all.
  - Summarizes our whole duty.

# Reason for profound respect and obedience

- God will bring every work into judgment – He sees, He remembers.
- ...with every secret thing [all will be exposed]. Ro.2:16
- ...whether good or evil. 2 Co.5:10.

# What about Solomon?

- 1 K.11, ends with no mention of repentance
- 2 Chr.9, no mention of his idolatry
- Ecclesiastes, end of his life
  - How could he write this book / chapter ... if he was still in idolatry?
  - Ch.2: Solomon had tried to make heaven on earth