



## "Wisdom - Remembering God While You're Young?" (Ecclesiastes 12)

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v.1b Before the luster of life is gone

\* Take advantage of what you can offer to the Lord while you are young and vigorous...

\* The older a person gets, the less chance they will make a decision for Christ...older people tend to become "set in their ways."

\* I thank God that I began to serve Him when I was young. It's wonderful to look back now on 34 years of life "remembering my Creator."

\* None of us can turn back the clock, so do not let this chapter discourage you if all you can look back at the majority of your life not remembering your Creator. "Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

\* But if you are young, I pray that these closing words God has for us through the pen of Solomon will cause you to give yourself wholeheartedly to your Creator, so that one day you can like me look back on a life filled with God. I am at the age now where these words are personal. I can relate to the aging process described here.

v.2 Rather than sunshine after rain, more clouds. Life is filled with more and more problems.

\* Job 14:1 "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble."

v.3a The arms and the legs shake and are weak

v.3b The teeth

v.3c Your eyesight is not what it once was

v.4a You need a hearing aid, and you wake from sleep at the slightest noise

v.5a Some studies have indicated that as we grow older there are chemical changes in the brain that make us more vulnerable to fears.

v.5b The blossom of an almond tree is white

v.5c The "hop" is gone

v.5d Passion (sexual drive) runs out of gas

v.5e When passion runs out of gas, it ain't gonna be long before they're having your funeral!

v.6a This more than likely speaks of the spinal cord

v.6b The golden bowl was a phrase used to describe the brain

v.6c This could refer to the lungs

v.6d This more than likely refers to the heart (pumping life-giving blood to the body).

v.7 Gen.2: 7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being (soul).

v.8 Meaningless - if we go through the aging process (life) without regard for our Creator. That is why now at the end of this book God through the pen of Solomon encourages us to remember our Creator while we are still young. Another way to put this is simply "Don't waste your life." Listen, it seems like I blinked and went from 19 years old to 53 years old. Life is like a vapor...

vv.9-10 Wise in what he said, what he wrote, but not wise in how he lived. I have little doubt that Solomon wished he could go back and start over. Years had been wasted, and the only thing he can now do is encourage others to take the advice that he had compiled and written down for us, advice that has been inspired by the Holy Spirit and has now become holy writ (The Word of God).

v.11a The Word of God goads us to be wise, to make right choices in life, to not waste our lives on fruitless fleshly effort...

v.11b The Word of God is firm and secure (an anchor), and giving heed to the wisdom of the Word keeps us from tottering, from being blown here and there by the world, or as Ephesians 4 says, "blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming."

v.12a We must be very careful not to add or take away from the Word of God.

\* Rev.22: 18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

vv.12b-14 Don't test truth by the many books that are written, but test the many books written by the truth of God's Word.

\* This is a warning to not seek answers anywhere but the Word of God, because the God of the Word has a day of judgment for every person, and everything will be brought to light on that day.

\* Hebrews 4: 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

\* Rev.20: 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

\* II Cor.5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.