

Ecclesiastes 11:10-12 – 12:1-2

Do you remember that old hymn that said... now, don't worry, I'm not going to sing. I'm just going to say the words. I may even forget some of the words. It says, "What a day that shall be when my Jesus I shall see, when I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace, when He takes me by the hand and leads me through the Promised Land, what a day, glorious day, that will be." God wants us to be happy while we're here. He wants to remind us that one day we're going to see Him, and He will take us by the hand. I believe that Christ is the first one that we'll see when we leave this life as a Christian, as a saved person who has trusted Him as Savior. And when we do leave, He's going to take us by the hand and He's going to lead us around. And what a day that's going to be.

But, you know, we're here now, and we've been studying in the book of Ecclesiastes. There's some dark places in this book. There's talk about death, but thank God, there's talk about life, as well. There are contrasts going on here. And as we're getting to the end of this book of Ecclesiastes, we're not only looking to the older people who are mentioned in this book. As we look around and we see older people in this life, but you know, Solomon speaks to the young people, as well. And as we've been studying, we're getting ready to end Chapter 11 here. In verse 9, it talks about the young people. It says be happy while you're young. Don't go around with a long face. You can be happy, and once again, as older people, we need to give them something to really be happy about and that is Jesus Christ. We need to introduce them to our Savior and let them know that, as Christians, they don't have to go around with a long face and they don't have to be unhappy, but by receiving Jesus as Savior,

they'll be even happier by trusting Him as Lord and Savior.

Verse 9 actually tells the young person, remember this, while you're young, you're still responsible. Be happy but remember, when you leave this life, you're still going to be responsible for what you do. In Romans 14:12, it says, *So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God....* Not only will the old give account to God; so will the young. And this, of course, is the age of accountability. When the young person reaches the age of accountability, if they leave this life without trusting Jesus Christ, they too will give an account as to why they did not receive Christ. Well, what is the age of accountability? I don't know. I don't know the exact age. I believe it may be different for different youngsters, but I believe it happens when that young person realizes there's a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun.

You know, we don't always like to talk about Hell, but there is a place called Hell. Jesus spoke about that more than he did Heaven when he was on this earth, and I do know that He wants everybody to go to Heaven and He wants us to shun Hell. He wants us to stay out of there as human beings. And that goes for the young person, as well. When that young person gets to an age that they know right from wrong, they know that God wants to save them, that they need Jesus Christ as Savior, that's the age of accountability, and that young person needs to be aware of that and needs to receive Christ just as we older people have received Jesus Christ.

Now, in Revelation 11:18, it says, *¹⁸And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be*

judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto they servants the prophets, and to the saints,.... And that reward comes to the saved person now, and it goes on to say... *and them that fear thy name, small and great....* This would be the saved people, those people who have trusted Jesus as Savior. Whether you're old or young and you're with the Lord there, this is going to happen. You're going to receive a reward. And it goes on to say, *and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

And then Revelation 20:12 says, ¹²*And I saw the dead small and great stand before God....* It makes no difference who you are. You'll stand before God... *and the books were opened and another book was opened which is the Book of Life....* You get in that Book of Life by trusting Jesus as Savior. He is the way, the truth, and the life. The Bible says no man comes to the Father but through Him, but by Jesus Christ, and the Book of Life is going to be opened there.

And it says *the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works...* And this would be the unsaved people. If you're not in the Book of Life, if your name is not written there, you're going to be judged for your works. Now, the saved person is not going to be judged for their works because, why? They're in the Book of Life. They've trusted Jesus Christ as Savior so therefore they are in that book. They're in the Book of Life so therefore just as the Bible says, *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but it's according to His mercy that He saved us* – Titus 3:5.

And as that unsaved person stands before the Lord, they're not in the Book of Life, so they'll be judged out of the book of works. Their works are going to speak loud. Their works is what has taken place on this earth. In other words, they've never trusted Jesus as Savior,

and once again, this goes for the young person who's come to the age of accountability. Once, I don't know how old that would be. That's something that we don't know the exact age. Some think it's twelve years old. I believe it could be earlier than that. It's when the young person realizes that they need a Savior. They need Jesus Christ as their Lord. Young people will stand there who have never trusted Christ, and it's sad to say, the Bible says all those who are not found written in the Book of Life shall be cast into the Lake of Fire. That's sad. Jesus doesn't not want anyone going there. He wants everyone in this life to receive Jesus, Him, while they are able to. And while they're able to means when you leave this world it's too late to receive Him. When the breath of life leaves you, whether you're young or old, it's too late.

You need to receive Him now. You need to be happy now, in your young days and in your older days. If you are up in years, you need to receive Him as Savior, and as a saved person, whether you're old or young, you need to be happy in the Lord, trusting in Him to lead, guide, and direct you.

Now, we go into Ecclesiastes Chapter 12. This is the last chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes. We've talked about young people in this last section, Chapter 11. Well, the preacher doesn't stop there. Solomon doesn't stop talking about them. He's going to continue on a little bit here in Chapter 12. But the objectives in this chapter, I believe, is to consider what further counsel the preacher offers to the young and to note what happens to the spirit when the body dies. It also is to hear the preacher's conclusion after his search for the meaning of life under the sun. That means the meaning of life while on this earth.

Let's look first of all here in Chapter 12, advice to the young. We see this as we read through this chapter, verses 1 -7, but let's look at verses

1-2 first. It says, ¹*Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth...* Once again, he's continuing on, speaking to young people. Remember the Creator. Remember God in the days of your youth, he's saying... *while the evil days come not...* In other words, nothing has happened that has bothered you at this point... *while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh....* Nor as you grow older, he says.... *when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;* ²*While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain.*

Well, once again, some people say, "You know, I just can't understand all that." And I've heard people call these verses mumbo-jumbo. They simply don't understand. Well, first of all, you get saved and you can understand the Scriptures a little more than the unsaved person. I say a little more. The Holy Spirit will lead and guide you. The more you study the more you learn. And there are people who study more and there are people who know more by studying the Word of God, but this is not mumbo-jumbo. This is the Word of God, and this is what He wants us to hear.

Well, these verses 1-2, I believe, it's saying remember God, young person, in verses 1-2, remember God. Listen, young person. Remember. Know God even now while you're young, in verse 1, while nothing bad or evil is happening to you. Remember God, and before the years come in which you find little pleasure, remember God. Remember God while everything is bright and not gloomy. We need to remember that God has given us everything. Young people need to be reminded of this, and it's sad that in our schools, our public schools that God has been left out and children are simply not being reminded and shown who God is. They're simply not learning the way of life, and that life is Jesus Christ. That way of life should be Jesus Christ.

He is the way, the truth, and the life, and as young people grow, they need to be reminded and they need to know about God. They need to know about Jesus Christ. Once again, prayer has been taken out of the schools. The Bible is not read. And we look around us and we wonder why our country is in the condition it is in. It's because God is being left out of so many areas of the human life in our country. It's being left out of the schools, and you know, it's sad that it's not only being left out of the schools; it's being left out of the home. God is not present in the homes, in many homes anymore. God is not mentioned. Prayer is not offered at breakfast, lunch, dinner or supper, whatever you want to call meal of the day that comes in the evening. Prayers are not offered up to God. People are simply not thankful to God. Why? Because they haven't been taught.

Many times people are not saved and it's because they have not been shown the way of life. This takes place in the schools. God is forgotten. This takes place in the home. God is forgotten. He's ignored, and it's sad that in many churches today, God is forgotten. God is placed on the back burner. People would rather have entertainment than they would have the things of God. They don't understand that God is the One who brings joy. It's not the songs. It's not the clapping of the hands. It's not the jumping up and down. It's God who brings the joy. Do you have that joy today? The joy of the Lord is my strength and I pray that He's your strength today. Let's pray now.

Father, I pray for these who are listening. I pray for that person today who does not know you as Savior. May that person say, "Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior right now." For that saved person, may that person say, "Lord, I want to serve You. Thank You for saving me, for Jesus' sake." Amen.

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