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**Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8**

Solomon in our text teaches us about old age, called the evil days, which come to all who live many years in this life. Days in which, the vigor and strength of youth has long departed, and we enter days of bodily weakness and failing senses.

To those of you who NOW remember God, love God and serve Him with your all your heart, you will come to your last years in what the Bible calls a “good old age”, and though there will be weakness, affliction, and your bodies and minds beginning to fail and grow weak, there will be the hope of eternal life.

Genesis 25:7-8, 1 Chronicles 29:27-28, (Good: Happy, Pleasant, and Spiritually Prosperous).

Even so, if we enter into the days of old age; they will be accompanied by afflictions and weaknesses, which is the dissolving of our earthly tabernacles. 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:4

To those who refuse to acknowledge God in their lives, who refuse to turn from their sins to Christ, their days of old age will NOT ONLY be full of bodily afflictions and weakness, but darkness and bitterness of the soul.

Days of no hope and nothing to look forward to, days, in which you will say; I have no pleasure in them.

**This is why it is so important for us to teach our young people to Remember God their Creator, and to be lovers of God rather than lovers of youthful lusts and pleasures in this life!**

Youth is a time that is full of strength, energy, and big ideas, but in a post Genesis 3 fallen world, it is also (all too often) filled with foolishness, sin, and it is wasted in the world on the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1

One of the struggles of being a parent is teaching and disciplining our children away from sin, away from the vanities of this life, and toward God their Creator!

Teaching and disciplining their hearts towards “The One” to whom they are “naturally” against and “separated” from! Their Creator!

Parents YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DON’T KNOW BY EXPERIENCE! You’ve seen and have (in all probability) experienced the sorrows and damage of the sins of your youth that you so desperately want to forget, and them to avoid. Job 13:26, Psalm 25:6-7

If you’re like me, one of your most ardent desires is that your children NEVER repeat the sins of your youth in their lives. Listen to Solomon speak to His son. Proverbs 1:4-33, Isaiah 55:6, 66:1-4

**Psalm 25:7: The Psalmists called upon God to “Remember NOT the sins of his youth”. The only way that happens is to REMEMBER your Creator in the days of your youth.**

Christian, THIS is where you MUST witness to, and prophecy to your children, and EVERY young person with whom you are associated, who traffic in your society! YOU KNOW the true nature of sin and can “foretell” the sorrows of sin that your children (our youth) will experience if they refuse to acknowledge, honor, and worship God in their lives!

YOU KNOW how their story will end if they refuse to ACKNOWLEDGE and REMEMBER their Creator in the days of their youth!

*There is NOTHING more important for ANY/EVERY young person than knowing Christ savingly! 2 Timothy 1:3-5, 3:14-15*

**To live your whole life in sin/rebellion against God, and to come to your latter days without any hope of eternal life in heaven is to come to the last days of your life, “when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them”**

Solomon speaks about the difficulties of old age, days, in which our bodies and senses are breaking down and failing; days in which the strength of youth has long passed us by.

**Remember NOW** thy Creator in the days of thy youth, (BEFORE the evil days come):

*Ecclesiastes 12:2: “While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be NOT darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain”*

REMEMBER God your Creator NOW, while you still can, while your understanding is still sharp, while you’re still full of strength.

*Proverbs 6:6-8, 30:25, 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Don’t delay, because the days will come, when your body and senses will fail, when the brightness of the sun, the moon, lights of heaven will be covered by clouds that never leave; when the sorrows and darkness of old age are upon you. *Acts 27:18-20*

But Christian, these days of your old age, this season of life when our bodies begin to fail are NOT without hope! As our bodies fail, we take firmer hold upon the hope eternal life, which is before us!

Physically speaking, old age are “identified” here, as the evil days; days in which we will say, “I have no pleasure in them”.

But though we will have no pleasure in the afflictions of our earthly bodies decaying away, there are eternal pleasures that await us in heaven! *Psalms 16:5-11, 36:5-9*