

"I Know, But Do I Need?"

Ecclesiastes 12:1

A Sunday Evening Message delivered

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By

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Go with me, if you would, back to Ecclesiastes 12. Ecclesiastes 12:1 says, "Remember now thou thy creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" "I have no pleasure in them." That word pleasure means delight. It means longing. It means need. That's what it means, I have no need. "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth." Remember your creator in the days of thy youth, before the time comes that you say, "I just don't need this. I don't need this. I don't need this." I was making the bulletin for today. We looked at this recently. Not long ago, we had a message on this. But I was making the bulletin for today, and I came across an article that I did not put in the bulletin. But it was an article declaring the truths of God. It was a wonderful article, just laid out the foundations of the only hope that a sinner has of eternal life. And something in that article made me think of a particular person that I used to know. I have not had any contact with this person for decades. And those of you who have known me for decades, don't go back in your mind trying to figure out who I'm talking about. You don't know this person. But I do. I still know of this person, but I literally have had no contact with this person for

decades. But something in that article made me think of him, and it made me very sad. And it's because that person grew up hearing the truth and could quote to you everything that I read in that wonderful article. That person could just systematically fire off every foundational truth that I read in that wonderful article. There would be no doubt in his mind that God is Sovereign, no doubt in his mind. And there would be no doubt in his mind that God elected a people and that Christ redeemed those people, and that He will call every one of those people, and they are secure in Him. No doubt in his mind. But this person attends worship of the true and living God nowhere, I know that. Again, I haven't had any contact, but I know that. And he has no heart to go listen to the gospel preached. He knows the Doctrines of Grace, but he has no heart to go listen to The Gospel of Jesus Christ preached. And the thought entered my mind as I was sitting there reading that and thinking about all this, this is the thought that entered my mind. He knows it, but he doesn't need it. He knows it. You already see how fearful this is. He knows it. Doesn't it make you wanna guard? Doesn't it make you wanna cry? Doesn't it make, doesn't that stir you up? It stirs me up. He knows it, but he doesn't need it. How sad that is, all right? Immediately, this thought went through my mind. I know it. Do I need it? And I'm being serious. Do I? I know this, I know this. Do I need this? There is a difference in knowing and needing. There's a difference. Life is not in knowing. It is in needing. I'm becoming more and more aware of that. Life is not in knowing. It's in needing. There's a difference in knowing that I need air and needing air. There's a difference. I could hold my breath. I mean, at the first part of that, I could know I need air. Give me just a minute, though, and I'm gonna need air. Give me just a minute and it's gonna become life to me. I'm gonna need air right now. It's gonna be life or death to me. Life is not in just knowing. It's in needing. Here's the reality and the conviction that I came to about thinking of all this. If God leaves me alone, I won't have that need. I mean, I firmly believe that. If God

leaves me alone, I will not have that need. My flesh is naturally so dead and lifeless. And I'll pick on Irene because she's not here tonight. She thinks I walk about a foot above the ground and I'm just always, you know. I am just as dead and lifeless as every one of you. You're dead and lifeless, too. I know you are. But for the Grace of God, I'll do the exact same thing that this poor soul has done. And if God would be merciful, I pray He will send a revival in all of us in Him. It's not too late. But unless God does a work in me, I will know these things, I will quote these things, I will argue these things, but I won't need these things. Verse one says, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" I need to need. I'm just telling you what I need. I need to need. I need to need Christ. I need to need the gospel. I need to need worship. I want to need worship. I need to need worship. My life depends on it. My eternal life depends on it. All of our eternal lives depend on it. Coming off of this thought, this scripture came to my mind, all right? Turn with me over to Philippians 4. Philippians 4: 19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need. My God shall supply all your need." Yes, absolutely. He will supply all of the physical, material things that His people need. All of the physical, material things, He will. He knows what things we have need of. David said, "I've been young and now am old, and I've never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging bread." The Lord will supply the needs of His people. But thank God, more importantly than that, He will supply the need of His people. He will supply that need. Our God shall supply all of our need, our spiritual life, eternal desire, and longing that we need. We need a desire and we need a longing, and God will supply that for us. He will supply even that for us, along with every other vital-for-life thing that Christ has supplied. He will even supply the need for those vital-to-life things. That brought so much rest in me, because I can try to work up some emotion in me, but that's not gonna last that long. The only place that I

can find hope in this is knowing that He will take care of it. That brought so much rest to me. It relieved me of so much bondage and so much burden. He will supply your need. There are some things that God has supplied a need in His people for. Turn with me to Matthew 3, Matthew 3:13. "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade Him, saying, 'I have need to be baptized of Thee.'" I have need for You to baptize me. I need You to immerse me. Can we enter into that need? I need to be in Jesus Christ. I need to be immersed into the Lord Jesus Christ. There's a difference in knowing that and needing that. David said, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His pavilion. In the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me. I need to be hid in Jesus Christ. I need to be hid in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Hiding in thee, hiding in thee, thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in thee." "Hide me, O my Savior, hide." I ask myself, I literally ask myself this question, do you know you need to hide in the Lord Jesus Christ or do you need to hide in the Lord Jesus Christ? I believe I need to hide in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said, "O that I may win Christ and be found in Him." I wanna be with Him. I wanna be by Him. I need to be in Him. I need to be in Him, I must be. Like Jacob said, "I can't let you go unless you blessed me." You and I both know that. I mean, Jacob had no hold on the Lord. The Lord had a hold on Jacob. But that was what was in Jacob's heart. I can't let you go, I just can't, until I have to be in you. That's a need that all of God's people know well. I must be plunged into Jesus Christ. I just have to be. I have to be. Go me to Luke 9. Luke 9:10: And the apostles, when they returned, told Him all that they had done. And He took them and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. And the people, when they knew it, followed Him, and He received them and spake unto them of the kingdom of

God and healed them that had need of healing. You know who the Lord heals? Those who need to be healed. By God's grace, He gets the glory. He gets the credit for it. But by God's grace, we need to be healed, don't we? We need to be healed from our disease of sin. Our Lord said, "They that be whole in their own minds, those who are well in their own minds, they don't need a physician." They just don't need a physician. We have a sister right back there who just needed a physician. She just went to a doctor. Why did she do that? She had a need. Something was wrong. Until that came, you didn't have any thought of going to a, I right now have no thought of going to a doctor to have surgery. I'm not scheduled for a surgery anywhere. I don't have a need. I don't have a need. Now, if I had a need, I would go. All right, here's a little illustration of what man sounds like. This is what man's, if I had a need, I'd go. Yeah, I know where I would go. You better believe I know where I'd go if I had a need. Yes, sir. I know who I'd go see. Right now, I just don't have a need. O that God would cause all of us to see our sickness, our sickness of sin. You know, that man said, that preacher said one time, "I'm not trying to get men saved." Everybody thinks that we're up here in pulpits trying to get people saved. We're not trying to get people saved. God Almighty did that. We're up here trying to get people lost. We're trying to get people sick. They're already lost, they're already sick. We're trying to show that. That's the only time a need comes. If God would reveal the disease to us, we'd have a need. Not just a knowledge, but a need. Our Lord said, "They that be whole need not a physician, but the sick do." They do. Look at Luke 10. Verse 38 says: Now, it came to pass as they went that He entered into a certain village, and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. That's all Mary could do. That's all she did, sit at His feet and hear His word. Verse 40: But Martha was cumbered about much serving and came to Him and said, "Lord, dost Thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve

alone? Bid her therefore that she help me." And Jesus answered and said unto her, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things. But one thing is needful and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." The Lord said, "She has a need and that need is not going to be taken away from her." She needed, and by God's grace, we need it, too. But she needed to sit at His feet and hear His word. Why was she there? She needed that. She needed to sit at His feet and hear His word, why? She was hungry. She was hungry for living bread, the bread of life. She couldn't live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeded out of the mouth of our God. Our Lord said, "If any man hunger and opens his mouth wide, I'll fill it." If any man has a need, if any man or woman has a famished need. You ever been really hungry? I mean, really hungry. Oh, you feel so empty. You feel so weak. I just have to have it. I pray God would create hunger like that. I pray God would create hunger in us adults, hunger in you children, hunger in this community. O, that God would do a mighty work! I pray God will create hunger, hunger. I pray God would create fear that needs a hiding place. You know this fear? "I'm just so worried and fearful." Well, that's a good thing. Fear needs a hiding place. Sickness needs a physician. Hunger has to come back for more. I pray God will create a hunger that has to come back for more, come back for more. Well, the good news and the relief for God's people is He will supply that need. He will supply that need as He has supplied every other needful thing for life, every other needful thing for redemption, every other needful thing for security. He will supply the need for life, redemption, security. I need it, I need it. As He has supplied the blood, He will supply need for the blood. As He has supplied the Word and worship in the gospel, He will supply need for the Word, worship in the gospel. As He has supplied Christ, He'll supply need for Jesus Christ. But here's the thing about it, okay? He will supply that need through trials, troubles, convictions. This is how He will do it. He will supply it through guilt, sorrow, shame. But if that's what it

takes for us to have a need, even so, amen. Amen. If me being rich and increased with goods in whatever way that, every way that that means. If me being rich and increased with goods, living on easy street in this world, will leave me in need of nothing, then Lord, strip me of everything but Jesus Christ. If that's the case, strip me of everything but Jesus Christ. Let me lose my need of everything in this world, but please don't let me lose my need for Christ. Don't let me lose my need for Christ. Need always comes from a feeling of lack. That's where need comes from. It always comes from a feeling of despair. But as God supplies that lack and supplies that despair to us, and that's what He will do. He will supply lack and despair. "I'm gonna be so gracious to my people. I'm gonna be so loving, so kind." How you gonna do it, Lord? "I'm gonna supply lack and despair, because that will create need." As He supplies lack and despair, He'll always supply the remedy for lack and despair, always. And here it is. He'll give us lack, He'll give us despair, and then He'll give us the remedy for lack and despair. And here it is, turn with me to Hebrews 4. Hebrews 4:12, it says: For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Seeing, then, that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Lord, create a need. This is my prayer for myself and for every one of us here. Lord, create a need, and then draw us to the only remedy for that need, the throne of mercy and grace, the throne of our Lord Jesus Christ. And then, when You draw us

there, keep us there. Just keep us right there. Keep us, Lord. "O, keep us cleaving to Thyself and still believing 'til the hour of our receiving promised joys with Thee." Amen.