

Message #43**Ecclesiastes 12:11-14**

Like it or not, believe it or not, time is ticking away in all of our lives and we will face God and we will be judged by God. Solomon wanted his own son to realize this at a young age so he could make the kind of decision and live the kind of life that would be honored by God (12:12).

IN VIEW OF THE COMING JUDGMENT OF GOD, ONE WHO WANTS A MEANINGFUL AND FULFILLED LIFE WILL DEVOTE HIMSELF TO THE LEARNING AND OBEYING OF GOD'S WORD AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPER ATTITUDES TOWARD GOD.

This thesis was addressed to a “son,” one who had all of life before him. When a young person comes to terms with this truth, God uses that person for powerful purposes.

CONCLUDING THOUGHT #1 – Spend time listening to the Word of God from those who know how to correctly teach it. **12:11**

When Solomon refers to the “words of the wise men,” he is referring to the words written by wise men which are found in Scripture (Prov. 22:17). When a preacher correctly handles God’s truth, that truth is worth hearing and worth applying (12:10).

Reason #1 - Because God’s words are like goads . **12:11a**

A goad was a long stick with an iron point on the end of it. Its primary purpose was to jab an animal which was large and tough-skinned, like an oxen, to stimulate movement. A goad would get the toughest of animals to move in a certain direction or to pick up the pace of movement.

Solomon is saying God’s Word, when handled right, is like a goad. It will push you and prod you to move in God’s direction. It may sting initially, but in the end it will always move you in a direction that is right, a direction that will be blessed by God.

Reason #2 - Because God’s words are like nails . **12:11b**

The Word of God pierces one’s soul and one who takes it in to the point where there is some mastery or proficiency will discover he will be solid and stable, firmly attached to the will of God.

God’s Word will nail you to the will of God. It will make you strong and stable; nothing will be able to shake you. Therefore, spend time in life listening to and learning from God’s Word.

Reason #3 - Because God’s Word comes from one shepherd . **12:11c**

Even though the Word of God will pierce, prod and push and even though the Word of God is being taught to us by a preacher, we must always remember the Word of God comes from One shepherd—it comes to us from God!

When God's Word is being accurately preached and you go to hear it, you are not hearing from man, you are hearing from God.

CONCLUDING THOUGHT #2 – Don't spend much time with a focus on secular literature. **12:12**

The words "beyond this" are words that refer to writings beyond the Scriptures. Solomon warned his own son not to spend much time on secular writings beyond the Scriptures. Many books will take you this way and that way and you'll end up totally fatigued, not knowing who or what to believe.

God has given 66 precious books to man. Sixty-six inspired books which have come to us from the hand of Almighty God. If you want meaning and fulfillment, get into these books and get to know each one of them.

CONCLUDING THOUGHT #3 – Develop an attitude of a fear of God . **12:13a**

A high level of commitment to God's Word will produce a healthy attitude of fear for God. Notice carefully the mark of wisdom, the mark of a fulfilled life—a fear for God.

Most people want a God who will be their friend, not a God whom they should fear. However, a key to a fulfilled life is to maintain a healthy and holy and high perspective of God. He is a sovereign, holy, righteous God and He is to be feared.

CONCLUDING THOUGHT #4 – Develop an attitude of obedience to God's Word. **12:13b**

Fear God and obey His Word. You can enjoy life, you can find meaning to life, and you can find fulfillment in life if you follow this simple formula—keep a high level of commitment to God's Word, fear God and obey God's Word.

Now why—notice **verse 14**, because of our final judgment. Don't think for one minute that we will escape final judgment. We won't. God will judge everything. We may think we have this dark hidden closet in our world that no one else knows about or sees. This dark closet of ours is on full display before God.

Solomon was a man who wandered far off the path of meaning and fulfillment. He was a man who blew it. But he eventually figured out that the key to a happy life was his relationship with God. There it is. Straight from Solomon, straight to us from God.