

## THE SECRET TO REALLY LIVING

(Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:7)

...Remember when you first began to drive the car. It was so great to have the freedom to go anywhere you wanted to go. Wow!!! But, you soon learned that there were "rules of the road." You could go wherever, but, if you broke the rules (traffic laws) there was a price to pay.

...Solomon has a similar thing in mind as he moves into his conclusion where he calls us to live, to really live and enjoy the gift of life that God has given to us. But we must not be reckless, for if we are, there will be a price to be paid. This price will be paid not only in the future, but also now as we suffer the consequences of bad "driving."

### **TWO TRUTHS REMINDING US WHY WE ARE TO REALLY ENJOY LIFE TODAY.** Solomon tells us: live, really live, but do so with the end in view. This is the secret for a blessed life.

#### **I. Enjoy Life Today, For Soon The Dark Days Of Old Age Will Visit Us. 11:7-10**

- A. God has given us the sweet gift of life and He loves it when we live it to the max.
  - 1. Solomon calls us to enjoy "all of them." (8a) Life is pictured as seeing "the sun."
  - 2. It matters not whether we live long or short...such things are in God's hands. (8)  
...we must refuse to let the pains, sorrows, and disappointments in life rob us of this.
  - 3. We must enjoy life today...don't wait. Our lives are meant to be joyous.
- B. Remembering that life is short and that old age is coming, should motivate us. (8b)
  - 1. Solomon calls our future days, "days of darkness."  
...today we see the sun and it is pleasant, but tomorrow...trouble!
  - 2. And more, he tells us that these days will be "many." Wow!  
...and during such days, it will seem like everything is meaningless..
- C. So Solomon urges to be happy and to follow our hearts...our dreams...today. (9)  
...young men dream and old ones have their memories. Follow your dreams. Go!!! Today!!!
  - 1. But he warns, do so according "to the rules," as God will review your life at the judgment. (2 Corinth 5:10)
  - 2. Since the Lord will judge us, we should not abuse life by deliberately sinning and living as if "anything goes."
  - 3. We must live with eternity's values in view. So, have fun, rejoice, delight yourself in the thrill of living, yet be responsible...for we will give an accounting for everything.

#### **II. Live For The Lord (Creator) Today, Especially If Young, For Death Will All Too Soon Find Us. (12:1-7)**

- A. Solomon calls us "to remember your Creator in the days of your youth." (1)
  - 1. To remember does not merely mean to recall to mind. It is much more than...
  - 2. It means that we are to live for Him, obeying His Word for He is our Creator.
- B. The time to love and serve the Lord is today..."before the days of trouble come."  
...Youth is the best time to begin to live for the Lord, and not sow the seeds of sin that will hurt us in the future. Put away the things in your life that are not pleasing to the Lord.
- C. Live For the Lord "before" the gloom and decay of life set in that end in death. (vv2-5)  
...Solomon provides us with the down-hill slide of aging with his analogy of old age.
  - 1. "the keepers of the house tremble." We get the "shakes," our teeth fall out, "grinders," and we lose our vision, "grows dim." (3)
  - 2. "the sound of grinding fades," this points to the loss of hearing. (4)
  - 3. Fear seem to fill our hearts...as our physical powers diminish. (5)  
...the almond tree...white hair and we drag ourselves along.  
...our desire...which points to our sexual appetites, or desire in general wanes. Gone!
- D. Finally, death finds us...and we go "home." (vv.6-7) So, "remember Him before," because it's too late to do so after you die.
  - 1. Never live here like you are home, for you are not. If saved, heaven is your home.
  - 2. Death, is the tearing apart of the body and the soul.
    - a. You are not your body...some day it will return to the ground. (7)
    - b. You are the living soul within the body and will continue to live after death.

### **LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:**