**THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES**

**LESSON 6 - THE VALUE OF DILIGENCE; SEEK GOD IN EARLY LIFE; REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR; THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN**

**(ECCLESIASTES 11-12)**

**EXTRA INFO:** C. S. Lewis said, “For many of us the obstacle to charity lies not in our desire for more money or luxurious living, but in our fear, our fear of insecurity.”

**DAYS ONE & TWO** - Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-8 (The Value of Diligence: Seek God in Early in Life)

1. In the context here, it seems that *casting bread upon the waters* is like giving of yourself generously. What is the promise, in Proverbs 19:17, when we act this way?

*Answer here*

2. How does Ecclesiastes 11:2 tell us to be generous, while there is plenty, to as many as we can, because we might also need a little help some day?

*Answer here*

3. We can see *rain* and *wind* coming, but a tree falls without warning. How do verses 3-4 tell us that these uncertain things should not keep us from doing the right things?

*Answer here*

4. What stands out to you from Paul’s words, in Galatians 6:7-10, about sowing and reaping?

*Answer here*

5. While not understand all *the works of God, who made everything,* in Ecclesiastes 11:5, what should we still do every day, and why should we do it, according to verse 6?

*Answer here*

6. If *light* and the *sun* point to the good times, and *darkness* to the bad, what should a man still do who *lives many years*,according to verse 8?

*Answer here*

7. As Solomon has told us to enjoy the life God has given us, how should we think about any trials He may have also given us, according to James 1:2-4?

*Answer here*

8. Back in Ecclesiastes 11:9, what does the Preacher tell young people to do, and what warning comes with his words?

*Answer here*

9. What last words for the young does Solomon share in verse 10?

*Answer here*

10. How can understanding death, as a believer in Christ, help us to appreciate our lives today, when we know what 2nd Corinthians 5:6-8 says?

*Answer here*

**DAY THREE** - Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 (Remember Your Creator)

1. Why do we need to remember our *Creator,* *before the difficult days come,* in verse 1?

*Answer here*

2. What does Philippians 4:11-13 tell us about finding pleasure in our life right now?

*Answer here*

3. As Solomon uses the imagery of aging in Ecclesiastes 12:2-6, how does he compare the times of our youth to the times of old age, in verse 2?

*Answer here*

4. What stands out to you, in verses 3-5, in these pictures of old age leading to death?

*Answer here*

5. a. Who should be remembered, in difficult days before death comes, in verse 6?

*Answer here*

 b. As the *dust* of the dead *will return to the earth as it was,* ending up as vanity*,* what will happen to our spirit according to verse 7?

*Answer here*

**DAYS FOUR & FIVE** - Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 (The Whole Duty of Man)

1. What did the Preacher personally say about himself in verse 9?

*Answer here*

2. How does Solomon describe his words in verse 10?

*Answer here*

 3. Describe words of the wise and words of scholars, as wisdom is applied, in verse 11?

*Answer here*

4. Do a **WORD STUDY** of the *one Shepherd* who is the only source of all true wisdom.

*Answer here*

5. How does verse 12 tell us that any books written, on any subject other than God’s revealed wisdom, will only proliferate the uselessness of man’s thinking?

*Answer here*

6. What does the Preacher say, in verse 13, about *the conclusion of the whole matter*?

*Answer here*

7. What advantage is there, for those who *fear the LORD,* according to Psalm 34:8-9?

*Answer here*

8. Describe those who have *no* *fear of God* in Psalm 36:1-4.

*Answer here*

9. What did Solomon know about God, in the end, according to Ecclesiastes 12:14?

*Answer here*

10. What do the following verses say about this truth concerning judgment?

 Matthew 12:36-37

*Answer here*

 Acts 17:30-31

*Answer here*

**DISCUSSION:** As we finish the study of these two wisdom books, share if you like, what has stood out to you, that may have changed your thinking about some things.

*Answer here*