

REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR

Introduction:

1. At the end of his great experiment, Solomon sought to give wisdom to those who were willing to learn from him.
2. He explained the true meaning and purpose of life.
3. However, he also sought to spare others from the bitterness and heartache he had experienced in his trials.
4. Thus, he encouraged all to remember God in youth – and from then onward throughout life.

- I. Remember God in the Joy of Youth (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10)
 - A. Henry David Thoreau wrote: *“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived”* (Walden, 1854).
 - B. Solomon’s conclusion carries a similar thought with a profound distinction.
 1. One should rejoice in life and live it to the fullest.
 2. One must remember that death brings judgment (cf. Hebrews 9:27).
 - C. Rejoicing in youth does not mean indulging in sinful excess or pleasure.
 - D. Following one’s heart and sight does not mean doing whatever one wants.
 - E. These things are to be done as guided by God in anticipation of standing before Him in judgment.
 1. The instruction is to know oneself – personality, talents, etc.
 2. Then, let God’s Word guide in applying yourself to His work.
 - F. Youth is the time to begin this focus in one’s life, before the sorrows and struggles of life become too great.
 - G. Learn to live with cheerful contentment, for youth is fleeting (cf. Phil. 4:11).
 - H. Learn to be “young at heart” no matter one’s true age.
- II. Remember God in the Strength of Youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1-8)
 - A. What a blessing it is to serve God in one’s youth!
 1. Time
 2. Energy
 3. Strength
 - B. “To give our whole life to God, we must begin in youth” (Gary Colley).
 - C. Think of the foundation that is built for one’s life by serving God when young!
 - D. To encourage faithfulness in youth, Solomon described the process of aging and how it affects one’s ability to do what is desired.
 1. Vs. 2a – One’s eyesight begins to dim.
 2. Vs. 2b – One’s bright outlook on life is clouded.
 3. Vs. 3a – One’s arms and hands begin to lose strength and tremble.
 4. Vs. 3b – One’s legs weaken and cannot stand straight.
 5. Vs. 3c – One’s teeth begin to weaken and fall out.
 6. Vs. 3d – One’s eyesight begins to fail.
 7. Vs. 4a – One must eat with closed mouth due to a lack of teeth.
 8. Vs. 4b – One loses the ability to sleep deeply and long.
 9. Vs. 4c – One’s hearing begins to fail.
 10. Vs. 5a – One’s balance fails and a fear of falling grows.
 11. Vs. 5b – One’s hair turns white.

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- 12. Vs. 5c – Small things become heavy burdens.
 - 13. Vs. 5d – One’s desire begins to fail (food, drink, even life).
 - E. As age progresses, man begins to realize that he is going “to his long (everlasting) home” (cf. Philippians 3:20-21; John 14:1-6).
 - 1. Mourners begin to gather near, seeking to be hired for the funeral.
 - 2. The body’s organs begin to fail...
 - a. The back
 - b. The mind
 - c. The heart
 - d. The lungs
 - 3. Finally, death – and the body returns to dust and the spirit returns to God.
 - F. Solomon’s point is clear – one should remember God in the strength of youth for life on earth is brief!
- III. Remember God in the Time of Youth (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)