TRUST GOD AND ENJOY LIFE
Ecclesiastes 11.1-12.8

We are continuing a series on the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Scriptures (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and parts of the Psalms). Contrary to modern understandings, wisdom has a divine origin, not a human one. As we read wisdom literature, we can easily get the mistaken impression that wisdom involves the memorization and application of certain texts. The fact is, wisdom is not just common sense based upon experience, it is a result of a relationship with God.

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12.13-14

The writer of Ecclesiastes believed that his book was an argument that came to a close in 12.13-14. Therefore, we are able to fairly conclude, that each of the four sections, (1.2-2.26; 3.1-5.20; 6.1-8.15; 8.16-12.14), added something to the progress of that argument. The best way to then understand where the author is headed is to look at the conclusion of each section. If we can understand the conclusion, we might then be able to follow with greater certainty the steps leading up to it.

We are coming to the close of a series of messages on the book of Ecclesiastes where we looked at some of life’s more difficult questions:

What is the point of life?
How can I be happy?
How can I make the most of my time?
Why isn’t life fair?
What happens after I die?
How much money is enough?
How do I face the future?

Solomon was a great observer of life. What he has done for us is to see life in its totality and then to fit it into a meaningful pattern. He wrote the book with the intention of giving instruction on how to make people wise and happy. The heart of his conclusion is found in God’s desire for each of us to:

Trust God and enjoy life!!!!

He shows us the futility of building our hopes in the fleeting material and social goods of this world. This leads us to wisdom, and wisdom is merely the trust we place in God. He also shows us how to be truly happy by showing us how, within the context of fearing (trusting) God, we can fully enjoy the goods of this world.

There are several key phrases that are repeated throughout the book that give the reader insight into the primary truths of the book.

“Everything is meaningless” (1.2, 14; 2.1, 11, 15, 17, 19, 21; 3.19; 4.4; 12.8, etc.)

In our study of Ecclesiastes, it is helpful to see the word translated “meaningless” (NIV) in a possible different light.

“Meaningless! Meaningless!”
Says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!”
Ecclesiastes 1.2

“The merest of breaths.”
Says the Teacher.

“Everything is meaningless.”
Job 7.7; Psalm 39.4-6, 11
“A chasing after the wind” (1.14, 17; 2.11, 17, 26; 4.4, etc.)

“Under the sun” (1.3, 9, 14; 2.11, 17-20, 22, etc.)

“Find satisfaction,” “enjoy,” “be happy” (2.24; 3.12-13, 22; 5.18-19; 9.7, 9, etc.)

“Fear God” (3.14; 5.7; 7.18; 8.12-13; 12.13)

A life of faith in the context of enjoyment is the perspective of the entire book.


• The Life of Faith Takes Risks, (11.1).

• The Life of Faith is Enthusiastic, (11.2).

• The Life of Faith Cannot Control the Difficulties of Life, (11.3).

• The Life of Faith Necessitates Action, (11.4).

• The Life of Faith Doesn’t Always Have Explanations, (11.5).

• The Life of Faith Cannot Control the Future, (11.6).

THE LIFE OF JOY, Ecclesiastes 11.7-10.

• The Life of Joy is Pleasing, (11.7).

• The Life of Joy is Not Without an End, (11.8).

• The Life of Joy is Tempered by the Knowledge of God’s Evaluation, (11.9).

• The Life of Joy is Not Without Potential Hindrances, (11.10).


Remember your Creator in the days of your youth... Ecclesiastes 12.1a

This passage introduces one of the most fascinating allegories in Scriptures. Using a picture of an old house, Qohelet sets forth the reason for men and women to begin acting decisively and strenuously for their Creator to his glory.