

Text: Ecclesiastes 12:8-14
Topics: Life, Meaning, Wisdom
Series: Ecclesiastes: Words to the Wise

Monroe Bible Church
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Wisdom Made Concise

I. God's Purpose (8)

The end of all human striving is meaninglessness.

II. God's Parameters (9-12)

God's wisdom is a trustworthy guide and anchor for life.

III. God's Prescription (13-14)

Wisdom is fully giving worship and obedience to God.

Am I living God's wisdom?

Application Questions - These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.

1. Ecclesiastes opened (1:2) and closed (12:8) with the words, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity." What does that mean?

One of the reasons he says this, is what he repeatedly points out. From Ecclesiastes 3:22; 6:12; 7:14; 8:7; 9:12; and 10:14, what is his reason?

Think of an area of your life that you devoted a lot of time and effort to. Apply the reason above to it. How could it lead to thoughts of despair if left there?

One of Solomon's wisdom principles is to enjoy what you have each day. Last week we looked at that (Eccl. 3:22; 8:15; 9:7, 9; 11:8-9). How would that principle help you live with the "vanity" of life on earth?

2. Solomon put some parameter and balance to the "enjoy each day" principle with a reminder that God will judge us (Eccl 11:9). He further added, "fear God" in Eccl. 3:14; 5:7; 7:18; 8:12-13; and 12:13. What does that mean?

What does it look like to fear God and enjoy each day?

Are there any adjustments you need to make to your life to do this?

3. Solomon also concluded with the words "keep His commandments." (12:13) Jesus urged His followers to keep His commandments. From John 14:15, 21-24; and 15:10, what would keeping his commandments express?

What encouragement does Jesus give to help us keep His commandments?

5. What is the main application of this study, and/or the sermon and its passages, for you?