

The Final Word

Ecclesiastes 12:8-12:14

1. Solomon has made the search for meaning and for words to guide us. (vv. 8-12)
 - a. 1:1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:
 - b. 1 Kings 4:32 He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five.
 - c. 1:18 For with much wisdom comes much sorrow, and as knowledge grows, grief increases.

2. The Conclusion. (vv. 13-14)
 - a. Fear God.
 - i. 3:14; 5:7; 7:18; 8:12-13
 - ii. Psalm 33:8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
 - iii. Psalm 145:9 The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.
 - iv. Psalm 18:30 As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

 - b. Keep His commandments.
 - i. Psalm 36:1-4
 - ii. Proverbs 3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.
 - iii. Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.
 - iv. Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
 - v. Psalm 112:1 Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!
 - vi. Proverbs 14:26 In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.
 - vii. Proverbs 14:27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.
 - viii. Proverbs 19:23 The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.
 - ix. Psalm 34:9 Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

- x. Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
 - xi. Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"
- c. Judgment is coming.
- i. Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
 - ii. 1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.
 - iv. Hebrews 12:7, 9
 - v. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
 - vi. Psalm 130:4 But you offer forgiveness, that we might learn to fear you.

LOOKING AT LIFE BEYOND THE SUN:

- The Resurrection means everything matters.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
 - Matthew 10:42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."
 - Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget your work and the love you have shown for His name as you have ministered to the saints and continue to do so.