

The Promise of a New Year (Ecclesiastes 12:1-14)

INTRODUCTION: The name “Ecclesiastes” means preacher or, as some have rendered it, philosopher. It is in this book that we read the philosophy of Solomon, a man whose mind was in conflict over the problems of life. As Solomon contemplated life, he gave us a summary of what life is like without God. One word seems to really summarize Solomon’s analogy of life without God’s purpose and that word is found in verse 2 of chapter 1. Solomon goes on and uses this word 37 times in this one book. The word “vanity” simply means empty. It shows that the things of this world do not satisfy the heart of a man. Our New Year will either be a year of emptiness or it will be a year of purpose, growth and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. REMEMBER OUR CREATOR (ECCLESIASTES 12:1-3)

A. REMEMBER CHRIST EACH AND EVERY DAY (ECCLESIASTES 12:1)

Romans 1:28, “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”

Psalms 63:1, “O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee . . .”

B. REMEMBER CHRIST ALL OF YOUR DAYS (ECCLESIASTES 12:3-6)

C. REMEMBER CHRIST IN YOUR PRIORITIES (12:8-12)

Matthew 6:33, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness. . .”

“Only one life, ‘twill soon be passed. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

II. RECOGNIZE OUR DUTY

A. FEAR GOD (ECCLESIASTES 12:13)

Psalms 112:1, “Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.”

*“The fear of God is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a saved individual.”
– Paul Chappell*

B. KEEP GOD’S COMMANDMENTS (ECCLESIASTES 12:13)

I John 3:23, “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.”

III. REALIZE OUR APPOINTMENT WITH GOD (ECCLESIASTES 12:14)

A. FOR THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST THERE WILL BE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD.

Revelation 20:11-12, “¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

Matthew 7:22-23, “²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

B. FOR THOSE WITH CHRIST THERE WILL BE AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD.

II Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
