

INTRODUCTION - Solomon's final thoughts on youth, old age, death, and judgment.

1. (v1-2) "REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR ... YOUTH"

- 1) It is possible for youth to "remember your Creator"
(Psalm 71:17 and 119:9; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 3:15)
- 2) Why should the Creator be remembered in youth?
 1. Because "difficult days" are coming, and you may say, "I have no pleasure in them," meaning, you will not see any pleasure in remembering God.
 2. If God is not remembered now, it will be more difficult later in life.
 3. It's developing a good habit and a solid foundation for the future.
 4. In youth you have the greatest ability for learning and developing talents.
 5. Church leaders rejoice in this and receive hope for the congregation's future.
 6. Parents receive joy in seeing faith in their children: (2 Timothy 1:4-5; 3 John v4)
- 3) There are two dangers in delaying remembrance or obedience:
You may lose your desire or you may lose your opportunity.

2. (v3-5) REMEMBER GOD BEFORE THE DAYS OF OLD AGE

Solomon gives us motivation for living every day to its fullest while we are able.

- (v3) "In the day when the keepers of the house tremble - arms and hands tremble.
"the strong men bow down" - our mid-section and legs that we use to support the body
are no longer able to bear the weight or support the task at hand, and we stoop.
"the grinders cease because they are few" - lose teeth.
"and those that look through the windows grow dim" - the eyes need glasses.
- (v4) "when the doors are shut in the streets" - the ears need an aid.
"and the sound of grinding is low" - can't chew loud hard food so now it's quiet soft food.
"when one rises up at the sound of a bird" - perhaps any sound awakens you, or
you really do get up with the birds and chickens.
"and the daughters of music are brought low" - can't sing the high notes anymore,
the voice begins to quiver and crack, and just can't shout it out like before.
- (v5) "Also they are afraid of height" - don't climb up the ladder to clean rain gutters.
"and ("afraid") of the terrors of the way" - we don't ride or walk with former boldness.
"when the almond tree blossoms" - hair turns white or grey (if there's any left), or
your wife looks at you and says, "Nice almond tree, honey."
"the grasshopper is a burden" - even the smallest things are difficult, or
by summer's end the grasshopper loses its hop, doesn't move as gracefully.

"and desire fails" - no comment.

"For man goes to his eternal home" - the funeral home and then house of eternity.

"and the mourners go about the streets" - the funeral procession; precious memories.

3. (v6-8) (v6) "REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR BEFORE ... " - Solomon gives us images of death or metaphors, saying, "Remember your Creator before" death happens.

"... before the silver chord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken,
or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the well."

The bittersweet nature of loss makes the present more precious.

(v7) "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, (Genesis 2:7)
and the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Luke 23:46 and v52-53)

The word "death" means "separation."

The body remains here for burial and the eternal spirit is in God's hands.

4. (v9-12) REMEMBER THAT SOLOMON'S WORDS ARE WISDOM

(v9) "knowledge"

(v10) "acceptable words ... words of truth"

(v11) "words of the wise are like goads" - prod us in the right direction.

"are like well-driven nails" - fastened, secure, and Solomon "nailed it."

"given by one Shepherd" - it's a heavenly message.

(v12) "And further, my son, be admonished by these" - heed the warning!

"many books" - the public library cannot contain them all, "there is no end."

"and much study is wearisome to the flesh" - impossible to read them all.

5. (v13-14) REMEMBER SOLOMON'S CONCLUSION

(Proverbs 3:7-8) "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil.
It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones."

"Fear God" - (Ecclesiastes 5:7 and 8:12; Psalm 111:10)

"Keep His commandments" - (John 14:14 and v21)

"for this is man's all" ("the whole of man" and "the whole duty of man")

(Luke 12:15) "... for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things
he possesses" (v21) "So is he who lays up treasure for himself,
and is not rich toward God."

(Matthew 22:36-37) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?
Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment"

(v14) "For God will bring every work into judgment ... " - a day of reckoning!

CLOSE: and that's it!