

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

J K G H H S A X K C H S E P T
 T O D N L X O W X F T D K G J
 J H F I F E A R B N O A C V U
 G V A R Y L V G E V L O J L D
 P N I N Z Y O M C L Y G O I G
 J R M G Q P D W P E T U X O M
 H H E H W N F R G L L T Y L E
 M S G A A C O N C L U S I O N
 L F P M C V N A L L U A C Q T
 Z W M Q E H J B T K M R N T I
 L O O R D R E H P E H S J D U
 C M B R H J G R D R R M F K U
 U S U L K M Q O F D B C L M T
 C B A J S D C P A K Z T E H Q
 F R X S N L W I L T B Q Y S Y

FEAR
 NAILS
 SECRET

CONCLUSION
 JUDGMENT
 PROVERBS
 WORK

COMMANDMENTS
 GOADS
 PREACHER
 SHEPHERD

Scripture of the Week

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
 fear God and keep His commandments,
 for this is man’s all.”
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- Lord's Day & Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday & Saturday

Signature

Daily Bible Studies
 October 28 - November 2, 2013
 “What is the ‘Real’
 Chief End of Man?”
 Ecclesiastes 12:9 - 14



The Lord's Day & Monday

Read **Ecclesiastes 12:9—14**.

We have come to our final study in Ecclesiastes.

God, through Solomon, has taught us many things that are not believed and lived in our culture even by Christians.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism says, "man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." What does the Bible say though? What is man's chief end? As one pastor once put it, "What on earth am I here for?" What is your purpose? Solomon says, "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is man's all."

So is the catechism wrong? No, the catechism is not wrong. It is speaking very broadly while Solomon is speaking more specifically. We can glorify God and enjoy him, when we are fearing Him and obeying Him.

Besides seeing that our purpose is to fear God and keep his commandments, we will also see the importance of God's Word.



Friday & Saturday Activity

Write down three things you learned from this week's study:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Heavenly Father, thank you for the lessons learned from your Word this week. Please continue to teach me and change me. Father, thank You that though I have zero strength to stand in the day of judgment, you died for me that I might be with you."

Pray for the Lord's Day service:

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

Friday & Saturday

The last reading this week is **Ecclesiastes 12:14**.

What is one reason we should “fear God and keep His commandments?” Verse 14 gives an answer. “For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.” Solomon at times was depressed because he saw the wicked “getting away with” their sin, but he pointed us to eternity and the judgment to come early and often in the book of Ecclesiastes. We must constantly keep these things in mind, remembering that what is happening today needs to be understood and lived out knowing that we will meet a holy and righteous God someday.

Charles Spurgeon said, “The eternity of punishment is a thought which crushes the heart. The Lord God is slow to anger, but when he is once aroused to it, as he will be against those who finally reject his Son, he will put forth all his omnipotence to crush his enemies.”

Will the pleasures that sin brings you now, comfort you when you are in Hell? No, no they won't. So enjoy life, but don't for a second think that God winks at your sin or that Solomon is telling you that your choices don't matter. They do, so turn from sin and thank the Lord that he has put them away from you.

If you believe in Jesus and have turned from your sin, then Jesus has already been punished for it. “...there is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1) On the other hand, if you never turn to Jesus in faith, you will face God's wrath and suffer in Hell forever.

So we conclude with this thought: Jesus is the wisdom of God. Let us seek Him with our whole hearts. Keep the Lord's command, “And this is his commandment: that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ”

The Lord's Day & Monday Activity

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Where does the catechism tell us to go in order to learn how to glorify God?

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

What does the catechism say the Bible teaches us?

“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty...”

Prayer

Lord, help me learn from this text the importance of hearing and heeding your Words which glorify You, make much of You, and makes my life better.

Pray for your family:

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandpas, Grandmas, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins

Tuesday

Today we will be reading **Ecclesiastes 11:9-10**.

Today, we see that Solomon was wise because he taught others.

Like Moses, Ezra, and Jehoshaphat, Solomon taught God's Word and God's Wisdom to the people of Israel.

Remember that Moses' spoke with God on Mount Sinai and even talked with him face to face inside the tabernacle. After speaking with God, Moses would give God's message to the people, and as we see in Deuteronomy 6, all of the people were to relay the message to their children from generation to generation.

Much later in Israel's history, Ezra reminded the people of God's Law which they had long since forgotten. This required Ezra to read and study God's Law diligently before he took on the task of teaching the people.

At another time, King Jehoshaphat "sought the God his of father and walked in his commandments." During Jehoshaphat's reign as king, he sent out teachers to all the people to teach them the Word of God from the Book of the Law.

Did you catch what all three men have in common? They all sought God. They were men who prayed and who read and thought about God's words and as a result they went out and taught others.

Solomon was much like these men. He "pondered and sought out the truth." He then laid it out in an orderly fashion and gave it out to many others, including us as we read his God-inspired words thousands of years later.

Thursday Quiz

How do you think you could live more like Hugh Latimer? What areas of your life are you content to do your own thing instead of turning from your sin? What will help you to live with a greater commitment to the Lord?

Prayer

Father, I beg You to help me see the importance of this command. O God, give me strength and power to do this for Your glory and my ultimate good.

Pray for the leaders of our government. As always, pray that they would fear and honor the Lord Jesus with the decisions they make.

Dawn Miller (Catt. County Community Services Director), Veronica Cruz (NYS Community Services Director), Jeannie Chaffin (U.S. Office of Community Services Director)

Thursday

Today, you should read **Ecclesiastes 12:13**.

You won't find many statements that are more powerful or to the point. "Fear God and keep His commandments."

"What is the 'Real' Chief End of Man?" "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all." The world around you will change and pass away, but God and His word will remain and maintain their authority over you, so "Fear God and keep His commandments."

"Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you." - Psalm 102:25-28

To fear God means to bow before Him by turning from your own way and seeking and finding forgiveness in Jesus. It is humility before and thankfulness to God. It is knowing that you are blessed far beyond what you deserve and feeling the tension that God could throw you in Hell, but he has instead shown you love by putting your sins on Jesus.

What would your life be like, if you had these attitudes and you feared God? Bishop Hugh Latimer was one man, among many others, that demonstrated what a God-fearing and obedient life looks like. He frequently had the opportunity to preach to King Henry VIII. The thing is, King Henry wasn't the most stable or kind king. He had a certain fondness for giving the command, "Off with his head!" He was not the kind of guy you would want to tick off, but that didn't stop Bishop Latimer from telling Henry the truth about his sin. The bishop gave Henry a Bible and put a bookmark in the exact spot where it showed that what Henry was doing was wrong. At another time, the bishop preached for the king and made him angry by telling the truth. The king threatened his life, but the bishop feared God instead of Henry. The bishop reminded himself, "Dost thou not know from whom thou comest— upon whose message thou art sent? Even the great and mighty God, who is all present and able to cast thy soul into hell! Therefore take care that thou deliverest thy message faithfully." Eventually, he was burned at the stake because he would not deny the Lord. Let us pray that we will fear the Lord and live faithfully as well.

Tuesday Quiz

1. Where did Moses speak with God?

2. What was Ezra's occupation? (Ezra 7:6)

3. What are the Israelites doing in the book of Ezra?

4. In 2nd Chronicles 17:4, what two things does it say that Jehoshaphat did?

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you as well. Here is an idea of what you could pray: Father, help me to listen and be thankful for the wise Words You send out to me through Sacred Scripture. May I be a wise hearer and skillfully apply and obey the Word of Truth that You teach and speak to my life.

Pray for your church family:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Ames
2. Mr. Tim Austin
3. Mrs. Elaine Bartlett

Wednesday

Please read **Ecclesiastes 12:11-12**.

Today's reading emphasizes the importance of God's Word. Solomon compares it to something called goads.

Goads?!? What are goads?? Well, do you remember when Saul of Tarsus was knocked off his horse by Jesus? Jesus said to him, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." The word "pricks" has the same meaning as "goads," so goads are sharp, pointed sticks that force an animal to move in a certain direction. The animal can try to go its own way, but when it does it will get pricked or poked by the sticks and experience pain. God's Word does the same thing for us. It is meant for our good and when we obey it, we will be led in eternally good and pleasant ways. Our Shepherd will make us lie down in green pastures and lead us beside still waters, but if we choose to rebel and go our own way, then God lovingly pokes us with the goads of His Word. When we feel that pain, we should first repent and turn from our own way to God's way and then rejoice that we have a Shepherd that loves us so deeply.

Solomon also says that God's Word is like a well-driven nail. The Lord desires that His Word be firmly planted and settled in your heart. You can do that by reading, thinking about, memorizing, and obeying the Bible. Remember what Psalm 119:11 says, "Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

There is one final note today. Imagine a shepherd setting up his tent as he pounds the stakes into the ground. Once the stakes have been hammered in, the tent will not be blown around. In the same way, God wants you to let Him secure your tent for you. If you follow your own ideas and opinions, you will be blown around by "every wind of doctrine." But, if you anchor yourself with and in the Bible, and seek the wisdom of the elders of the church (Ephesians 4:11-15) instead of the "wisdom" that is given on TV, you will be well secured in the faith.

Wednesday Quiz

Summarize today's lesson in your own words:

Prayer

Father, help me to see that Your Words don't always make me feel happy; they goad and poke me toward You and truth when I wander from it. Thank You for being forgiving and patient. Help me not make *excuses but obey. Protect me from "jumping on the bandwagon" of new and exciting when it drives on a different road than the old, straight, true and faithful Word of God.*

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

Mr. Brent Meyers and his family live in South Africa. Mr. Meyers helps the pastors there. His website says, "We have worked with pastors who have no Bible, pastors who can't read, and pastors who have had little to no education in the Bible or theology. Yet these men love God..." <http://www.biblicalministries.org/content.php?pid=173>

