

Ecclesiastes

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE
AS A GIFT NOT GAIN

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CHAPTER 12:1-7

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- Ecclesiastes 12:8 “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “**All is vanity.**”
- **Frustratingly Puzzling**, says the Teacher of Wisdom, **all is a frustrating puzzlement.**

➤ Ecclesiastes 12:6–7 *Remember your Creator **before** the silver cord is **loosed**, Or the golden bowl is **broken**, Or the pitcher **shattered** at the fountain, Or the wheel **broken** at the well. ⁷ Then **the dust will return to the earth** as it was, And **the spirit will return to God who gave it.***

*Navigating Life In A
Frustratingly Puzzling World*

A. Navigating Life in this Frustratingly Puzzling World requires humble submission of our hearts to WISE counsel (watchfulness).

➤ Ecclesiastes 12:9-10

And moreover, because **the Preacher was wise**, he still **taught the people knowledge**; yes, he pondered and sought out *and* set in order many proverbs. ¹⁰ The Preacher sought to **find acceptable words**; and *what was* written was **upright—words of truth**;

- **Proverbs 4:23** **Keep your heart** with all diligence, **For out of it *spring* the issues of life.**
- **Psalm 39:1** I said, **“I will guard my ways, Lest I sin** with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me.

B. By submitting to wise counsel/through watchfulness we can:

- 1. Enjoy God's PLEASURE.
- 2. Endure God's Correction
- 3. Embrace God's Perspective
- 4. Be Equipped To Stand Before God's Judgement

➤ 1. Enjoying God's Pleasure

- **Ecclesiastes 12:10** The Preacher sought to find **acceptable words**; and *what was written was upright—words of truth.*
- McCabe Translation: Qohelet sought to find **pleasing words** and what was written was **upright and true.**

➤ Psalm 1:1–2

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

- **Psalm 37:23** The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, And **He delights** in his way.
- **1 John 5:3** For **this is the love of God**, that we keep His commandments. And **His commandments are not burdensome**

➤ 2. Enduring God's Correction

Ecclesiastes 12:11–12

The **words of the wise are like goads**, and the words of scholars are **like well-driven nails**, given by one Shepherd. ¹² And further, my son, **be admonished by these**. Of making many books *there is no end*, and much study *is wearisome to the flesh*.

- **Hebrews 12:11** Now **no chastening seems to be joyful** for the present, **but painful**; nevertheless, **afterward it yields the peaceable fruit** of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
- **Hebrews 12:6** *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.*

3. Embracing God's Perspective.

- Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.**
- McCabe Translation: ¹³ Having heard everything, the conclusion of the matter is this: **Fear God and keep His commandments**, for this is **the whole duty of man.**

- **Three elements in the Fear of the Lord: Respect/reverence; admiration; and amazement.**
- Psalm 147:11 The **LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him**, In those who hope in His mercy.

4. Be Equipped to stand before God's judgment.

- **Ecclesiastes 12:14** For **God will bring every work into judgment**, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.
- **McCabe Translation:** For **God will bring every hidden thing to judgment**, whether good or evil.

➤ Ecclesiastes 4:1

Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of **the oppressed**, But they have **no comforter**— On the side of their oppressors *there is power*, But they have no comforter.

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my **beloved brethren**, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**