



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 06/24/2018
DISCUSSION DATE: 07/01/2018
TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 11:7-12:8

How can we so live that our old age, when it comes, shall be beautiful and happy?

I. REJOICE WHILE REMEMBERING!

A. Rejoice in God's GIFT of LIFE.

1. Enjoying God's gift is not optional, it is commanded.
2. Failure to Enjoy God's gift brings certain judgment.

B. While Remembering Your CREATOR.

1. We are commanded to remember that we are created.
2. We are commanded to consider what is coming – the days of trouble that are just ahead.

ASK GOD FOR WISDOM TO APPLY HIS WORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES



We can summarize the purpose of this section as follows: ***The wisest sinner to have ever lived is teaching how to enjoy God's gift of life while embracing our finite/fallen limitations (Ecc. 6:10-11:6).***

1. **Consider this quote:** "We are every day laying up the food on which we must feed in the closing years. We are hanging pictures about the walls of our hearts that we shall have to look at when we sit in the shadows." What do these teach us about the importance of how we live each day? How does our treatment of God's gift of life now impact who we will be as we reach old age?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 11:7-8.** Why do we need to be reminded that life is sweet? When is life pleasant? What does God want us to do with His gift of life? How is that possible?
3. What are we supposed to remember concerning the days of darkness? How does this help us keep the command to rejoice?
4. **Read Ecclesiastes 11: 9-10.** Who can follow the ways/impulses of their heart? How can we keep the directive to have our hearts cheer us all of days of our youth?
5. **Read Psalm 37:4.** What help does this offer for our understanding of these commands?
6. **Read Deuteronomy 28:45, 47.** Why did Israel fail to serve the Lord with joy and gladness of heart? How does having an abundance of everything turn our hearts away from the giver and towards the gifts? What is the result when we worship/serve the gifts?
7. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 & Philippians 4:4-6.** What do we know to be God's will? Why do we fail to do God's will? How does this connect to Solomon's commands? Compare Ecclesiastes 11:10 with Philippians 4:6. What does God want us to do with anxiety? How can we help one another to keep these commands?
8. **Read Philippians 4:8.** How does our thought life impact our ability to rejoice? What things do we tend to meditate upon? How do we learn to meditate on things that are praise worthy? What should people experience when they attend Trinity? What kind of worship service should they witness?
9. **Read Ecclesiastes 12:1.** How do we REMEMBER our Creator and what specifically are supposed to be reminded about? In what ways does our culture endeavor to teach humanity that we are sovereign? How does our culture's approach to life creep into the thinking of God's children?
10. **Read Luke 9:23-26.** What does God want us to do when we remember that He is our CREATOR? How do we lose our lives for His sake?
11. **Read Ecclesiastes 12:2-7.** What happens to us as the day of trouble approaches? How is this reality meant to impact our present lives? What happens when the golden bowl of life is broken? How does our day of accountability before the Lord impact our daily decisions?