

Ecclesiastes: Wisdom & Folly

Ecclesiastes 11 & 12

Investing Wisely (11:1-8)

- It is wise to divest our interests (11:1-2, 6)
 - Both financially and otherwise
- Because life is unpredictable & uncontrollable at times
 - Like the rain & the wind (11:3-4)
 - Like how a child is formed in the womb (11:5a)
 - Mysterious & perhaps unknowable
- But these reflect the way God works in the world (11:5b)
 - Thus, we should invest in eternal things
- We should not waste time worrying about what might happen, but rather deal with things as they are (11:4)
- Thus, we should live life to the fullest (11:7-8a)
 - While remaining aware of the risks (11:8b)

On Aging, Death & Contentment (11:9-12:7)

- We should enjoy life while we can, making the most of opportunities (11:9a)
 - While remaining aware of our standing before God (11:9b)
 - Living with eternity in mind (11:10a)
 - In a way that pleases God
 - And gives freedom from stress
- We are reminded that our youth is fleeting (v. 10b-12:7)
 - Using various illusions to the process of aging
- These are the reflections of an aged man who lives with regrets
 - His advice: Make God-honoring choices now so you have nothing to regret later

The Conclusion of the Matter (12:8-14)

- Solomon concludes by repeated his call of *hebel* (vanity)
- He reflects on his own desire to share wisdom (12:9-10)
 - Claiming that wisdom is meant to move us forward (*goats*), and anchor us (*nails*) (12:11)
 - While coming from God alone (*one Shepherd*)
- But even wisdom has its limits and should be pursued in measure (12:12)
- What is not *hebel*, what has real meaning is God alone (12:13)
 - Thus, we should revere and love Him
 - And live with eternity in mind (12:14)

So What?

- Are we living wisely by making the most of opportunities and investing in eternity?
- Are we finding our life's meaning in God alone?

Meditation Verse: Ecclesiastes 12:13

Scripture Reading Challenge: John 1:1-18