

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 1 – A Testimony to Meaninglessness Ecclesiastes 1:1 - 18

1. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1 – 18

This is described as being one of the S _____ books of the Bible

2. This book is also full of C _____.

See the following verses: 4:2, 7:2, 7:3 and 7:4

3. This is a D _____ book. Why?

4. The writer of this book. S _____, is clearly very depressed.

5. What are the 3 'key words or phrases'?

i. M _____ !

ii. U _____ T _____ S _____

iii. C _____ A _____ T _____ W _____

6. How does Solomon come to his depressing conclusions?

i. By P _____ E _____

ii. By P _____ O _____

7. To prepare the ground for this study and those of the other 5 messages in this series we need to take a closer look at King Solomon of Israel. What are the attributes associated with this man?

He was:

W _____, R _____, F _____, S _____, S _____

8. What are the 3 books of the Bible that are written by King Solomon?

- i. S ___ of S _____ Written as a young man.
- ii. P _____ Written as a middle aged man.
- iii. E _____ Written as an older man.

9. What was the cause of Solomon's disillusionment and downfall?

10. Read and consider: 1 Kings 11:3 – 4 then 1 Corinthians 15:33

11. Solomon had known God, had enjoyed God, but now was living like an A _____

12. When God becomes A _____, D _____, R _____ and U _____ we begin to live as though He does not exist, and little by little everything becomes empty and meaningless.

13. How does this disconnect begin?

- i. We have S _____ out of H ___ W _____
- ii. We have D _____ His W _____
- iii. We have L ___ F _____ with Him

Final Thoughts

In Ecclesiastes 1:14 we have the 'humanistic' perspective.
That is; when God is taken out of the equation
there is nothing spiritual, only that which is human and material
.... and ultimately that can never satisfy.

Solomon knew that God existed –
he had too much experience of God to dismiss His existence –
but he was living as if there was no God. Does that sound familiar?

If someone as wise as Solomon can fall into this situation, then so could we.

Ecclesiastes may be the most biographical book of our age,
and we would do well to heed Ecclesiastes 12:1

**Get God into the rightful place in your life while you are young;
and as you get older check yourself frequently to make sure He stays there.**

Message Guide & Questions

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun

Part 2 – The Pleasure Pursuit

Ecclesiastes 2:1 – 11, 17

1. To recap the last study, what were the books of the Bible that were written by Solomon?

- i. S ___ of S _____
- ii. P _____
- iii. E _____

2. Now read Ecclesiastes 2:1 – 77 and 17

What is the progression that we see here?

When the H _____ turns away from God it is not long before the M _____ turns away.

When the M _____ has turned it is not long before the L _____ turns away from God.

When L _____ turns away from God you have to P _____ M _____ in whatever way you hope to find it.

3. So, having turned away from God, where and how did Solomon search for meaning?

Through P _____, P _____ and P _____

4. What were the 3 areas of 'Pleasure'?

- i. W _____ Read verse 2 and 1 Kings 4:18
- ii. W _____ Read verse 3
- iii. W _____ Read verse 8b

What did this 'pleasure' prove to be? M _____ !

5. What were the examples of 'Power'?
Read and consider verses 4 – 6, then verse 7

6. As for Solomon's 'Prosperity and Wealth' Read and consider verse 8 and 1 Kings 19:14

7. Solomon had all the money he needed for all the things that money could buy; But what was the sobering truth that he discovered.
Read and consider Ecclesiastes 5:10
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8. The parallel with our modern society is very obvious as today our society pursues Pleasure, Power and Prosperity with Wit, Wine and [the pleasure of] Women.

The irony is that Solomon himself warned about this. Read and consider Proverbs 21:17

9. We should add that not all pleasure is necessarily wrong.
Read and consider Psalm 16:11

Final Thoughts

Sadly, the basis of modern ethics [even in some churches] has become:

- Go for pleasure, while *avoiding pain*.
- Decide what pain you are *willing to endure*.

This message goes deeper in this subject, but to go into that now would take much more time. So, as you have listened to and absorbed the message, allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into the understanding that as we are called to submit our lives to God there is no promise of pleasure, or that we will avoid pain; but there is that certain promise that the Lord Himself WILL be with us every step of the way, and our reward in Heaven is assured.

Message Guide & Questions

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 3 – A Time For Everything Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 15

1. Read and consider Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 15
2. What is the recurring theme of Ecclesiastes that is best stated in chapter 3 verse 1?
3. We are presented with 6 pairs of contrasts; 3 of which are obvious, with the other 3 being difficult.

The Obvious: A time to be B _ _ _ , and a time to D _ _ _
 A time to W _ _ _ , and a time to L _ _ _ _ _
 A time to K _ _ _ , and a time to T _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _

The Difficult: A time to K _ _ _ , and a time to H _ _ _ _
 A time for L _ _ _ _ and a time for H _ _ _ _
 A time for W _ _ _ and a time for P _ _ _ _ _

4. As Solomon makes these observations [looking back at our previous studies in this series] what conclusions does Solomon make, and what is he trying to do?

5. These lists of contrasts can be looked at 2 ways in terms of human experience.
 - i. As an O _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of Life.
 - ii. As an I _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of Life.

6. **As an Observation of Life.**

Read and consider the following verses, and then make a simple statement of that which these verses are conveying. Eccles. 1:4 – 7; 1:9 – 10; 3:15; 5:16: and 6:10

7. In trying to answer the question posed in Item 6 there are 3 philosophical views about this.

i. D _ _ _ _ _ ISM

ii. P _ _ - D _ _ _ _ _ ISM

iii. C _ _ _ _ _ ISM

8. What is Determinism? Read Ecclesiastes 3:15

9. What is Pre-Determinism?

10. What is 'Compatiblism'?

11. **As an Interpretation of Life.**

What is probably one of the most poplar philosophies in the church today?

Final Thoughts

There is nothing wrong with having a positive attitude in life.
The question is 'what are we positive about'?

If we reject the idea of there being anything negative in our life –
if we think that being a Christian
means we can trade in our sorrows, shame, sickness and pain for the joy of the Lord,
we are going to be hugely disappointed.
The scriptures do not promise us a life without difficulty, pain, sorrow illness or hardship.

When we are cleansed of our sins, reconciled to God and receive spiritual life,
this brings us into a relationship of dependence upon Him.
The highest values of our Christian Life are our Love for Him,
Obedience to Him and our Dependence on Him.

So often these values are stimulated and maintained through trouble,
not through ease.

Additional reading: 2 Corinthians 12:9 – 10

Never forget that:

**In the hard times, good times, bright times and dark times,
there is a Good Shepherd who oversees,
and works out His will and purpose for us.**

Message Guide & Questions

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 4 – Meaning in Work and Wealth Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 15

1. Read Ecclesiastes 5:10
What is significant to know about Solomon at this time?

2. In this study we will look at an important pursuit in which we are all engaged;
that being W _ _ _ , and arising from that, W _ _ _ _ _ .
3. Read Ecclesiastes 5:10 – 20
What are the 3 ingredients in our life that are implied here?
W _ _ _ , P _ _ _ and R _ _ _
4. Our life should be a rhythm of work, rest and play, but 3 things come out of
Solomon's jaded perspective of work and labour 'under the sun'
 - i. A sense of F _ _ _ _ _
 - ii. A sense of F _ _ _ _ _
 - iii. A sense of F _ _ _ _ _
5. **A Sense of Futility.**

Read Solomon's question in Ecclesiastes 1:3.
Then read and consider his own answer in Ecclesiastes 2:10.
And then what lies at the end of it all? Read Ecclesiastes 2:21.

6. The sense of futility leads to **A Sense of Fatigue**
Read and consider Ecclesiastes 10:15 and 1:8 - 9
7. What can happen if we work too little? We S _ _ _ _ _

What happens if we work too much? We B _ _ _ O _ _

8. According to Ecclesiastes 5:12 what is the bigger problem?

9. Discuss: What is the illusion of wealth?

10. So, the sense of fatigue leads to **The Sense of Failure**
Read and consider Ecclesiastes 5:15 – 16 and 2:17
What do you think Solomon was really looking for in all his work and wealth?

11. Consider the following scriptures to see where Solomon was looking for hope.

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| i. | Work for money | Ecclesiastes 10:19b |
| ii. | Work to Live | Ecclesiastes 6:7 |
| iii. | Work to Prove Something | Ecclesiastes 4:4 |
| iv. | Work for Your Kids | Ecclesiastes 4B |

Final Thoughts

The illusion of wealth is extremely tempting, but it is also extremely misleading.

As we have discussed, the illusion of wealth is:

the more I have, the more content I will be.

But the reality is: the more I have, the more I have to look after.

The more I have to look after, the more I can lose.

The more I can lose, the more worried I become.

In fact: **the very thing that promised contentment causes anxiety.**

Solomon does a good job of presenting the problem, but he does not come up with an answer to this dilemma, other than 'eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die'.

The real answer is found in John 6:27 – 29.

The question therefore is; what are **you** working for?

Food that spoils; that is temporary - here today and gone tomorrow?

Or food that endures, that does not die when you die, but whose effect lasts into eternity?

The food that we work for should not be orientated around **our needs**, but rather around **God's purposes**.

Then it will not be meaningless, but will be full of purpose and satisfaction.

Let these words of scripture send you on your way with renewed purpose, vigor and encouragement.

Colossians 3:17; I Corinthians 10:31 and Colossians 3:23 - 24

Message Guide & Questions

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 5 – Remember Your Creator When You Are Young Ecclesiastes 12:1 - 8

1. From our previous studies in this series what would you say is the state of mind of Solomon as he reaches old age?

2. Read and reflect upon Ecclesiastes 12:1 - 8

3. What is that legacy?

4. What are the 3 reasons?

- i. Ecclesiastes 12:1c Before you M ___ U _
ii. Ecclesiastes 1:2 Before you G ___ O ___
iii. Ecclesiastes 12:6 Before you D ___

5. Solomon says to 'remember your creator' why?

6. We believe in a Creator not because we need one for life to make sense, but because He has revealed Himself to us -

- i. In C _____
ii. In C _____
iii. In C _____

7. We should remember our Creator because:

- i. He M ___ you ii. He K _____ you
iii. He L _____ you iv. He has P _____ for you

8. So let's look at the 3 reasons.

1. Remember Your Creator Before your Life is Wasted verse 1b

Youth is the most important time in a person's life because during youth:

- i. The S _____ I _____ are made
- ii. The B _____ D _____ are made.
- iii. It is a time of the G _____ T _____
See 2 Timothy 2:22

9. Read Ecclesiastes 11:9 and then 2 verses later 12:1.
What 2 things is Solomon bringing together here?
-
-

10. **2. Remember Your Creator..... Before you Get Old** verses 2 - 5

Remember your creator before

- 1. S _____ is D _____
- 2. G _____ D _____
- 3. you have T _____ H _____
- 4. S _____ P _____
- 5. L _____ T _____
- 6. C _____ on your E _____
- 7. L _____ of H _____
- 8. A _____ E _____
- 9. I _____ F _____
- 10. H _____ goes gray or white or just G _____
- 11. M _____ are S _____
- 12. D _____ S _____ D _____
- 13. W _____ S _____ C _____
- 14. D _____ M _____ P _____
- 15. L _____ of B _____ C _____
- 16. H _____ F _____

11. Old age will inevitably come to all of us, but Youth is a time of:
 C _____ and V _____ and E _____.
12. Youth are the engine of social change, and Paul told Timothy to “let no one despise your youth”. It can be the most wonderful time of your life, but you need to know where you are going.
- i. Make sure it is U _____ the L _____ of C _____
 - ii. That it is for the P _____ of G _____
 - iii. Then it will B _____ F _____
13. **3. Remember your Creator Before you Die** verses 6 - 7

There are 6 images of death in these 2 verses.
 The first 5 are about decomposition, but what is the last image?

Final Thoughts

In what condition is your spirit returning to the Creator?

Do you know Christ as your Saviour?
 Are you living with Christ as your Lord?

You can have a saved soul, but as wasted life.

Solomon speaks with the hindsight on a life that has known God,
 but has turned away from Him.

He has been on both sides, and his warning to us all is:

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth

- **Because He is your creator.**
- **Before your life is wasted.**
 - **Before you get old.**
 - **Before you die.**

Message Guide & Questions

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 6 – The Whole Duty of Man Ecclesiastes 12:13- 14

1. For this last study in this series please read and consider Ecclesiastes 12:13 - 14
2. You will probably not have been able to recall all these names, but the exercise is good to help remember them.
 - i. P _ _ _ _
 - ii. A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
 - iii. E _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
 - iv. The S _ _ _ _ _
 - v. The B _ _ _ _ _ [this one may surprise you]
 - vi. B _ _ D _ _ _ _ [this may be a surprise too]
3. Solomon was looking for meaning, so where did he eventually find it?
Read again and consider Ecclesiastes 12:13 – 14

4. What does it mean to 'fear God'?
Read and consider the following scriptures in Proverbs – also written by Solomon.
Proverbs 9:10, 1:7, 3:7, 8:13, 9:10, 10:27, 14:26f, 15:33, 16:6, 19:23, and 22:4

5. A person who fears God is a man [woman] who takes God seriously, and who takes His words and commandments seriously.

A person who takes all His P _ _ _ _ _ seriously;
and who takes all His W _ _ _ _ _ seriously.

6. What kind of promises do we need to take seriously?
Read and consider the full implications of Matthew 16:25

7. What kind of warning do we need to take seriously?
Read and consider Ecclesiastes 12:14; Hebrews 10:26 – 27 and then verse 3!

Final Thoughts

The 'Fear of God' puts everything else in perspective.
It brings wisdom; gives knowledge; deals with evil; creates security for children;
adds length of life; and even brings material well-being [if there is humility with it].

In contrast; the fear of man will prove to be a snare. Proverbs 29:25

The 'Fear of God' could be described as
'total abandonment to God irrespective of the consequences'.

To 'fear God' is to **trust Him with everything.**

As it was in the early church.

Read 2 Timothy 1:12 and Acts 9:31.

**So let's finish by reading again the conclusion that Solomon came to
in Ecclesiastes 12:13 - 14**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 1 – A Testimony to Meaninglessness Ecclesiastes 1:1 - 18

1. This is described as being one of the **STRANGEST** books of the Bible.
2. This book is also full of **CYNICISM**.
3. This is a **DESPRESSING** book BECAUSE IT IS WRITTEN BY A DEPRESSED man.
4. The writer of this book. **SOLOMON**, is clearly very depressed.
5. The 3 'key words or phrases are:
 - i. **MEANINGLESS** This word appears 35 times.
 - ii. **UNDER THE SUN** This phrase appears 32 times.
 - iii. **CHASING AFTER THE WIND** This phrase appears 9 times

These 3 elements all come together in Ecclesiastes 1:14

6. Solomon comes to his depressing conclusions by :
 - i. By **Personal Experience**.
 - ii. By **Personal Observations**.
7. King Solomon was :

WISE	Read 1 Kings 4:34
RICH	Read 1 Kings 10:14 - 15
FAMOUS	Read 1 Kings 10:1 – 3 and 6 – 7
SUCCESSFUL	Read 1 Kings 4:20 and 2 Chronicles 9:26
SPIRITUAL	Read 1Kings 10:1 - 3

8. The 3 books of the Bible that are written by King Solomon are:
 - i. **Song of Solomon**

Written as a young man.
Evidently very much in love; he writes about the joys of love.

ii. **Proverbs**

Written as a middle aged man. We deduce this as most of it is addressed to 'my son'; probably as the son is arriving at manhood.

iii. **Ecclesiastes**

Written as an older man who had known God who had turned away from God and developed a somewhat godless attitude. He describes some of the disappointments of old age, especially in Ecclesiastes 12:1 [read]

9. The cause of Solomon's disillusionment and downfall were the old traps of: i.
- i. His Relationship with women.
 - ii. Greed

When these things are indulged in unrestrained, they will tear apart and destroy.

10. With so many wives and concubines Solomon's heart was led away from God He had turned from being wise, to being a fool.

It is very easy today to fall into that same trap. 'Successful' people are especially prone to this.

11. Solomon was now living as an **atheist**. There are 2 kinds of atheist.

i. The 'theoretical atheist' *believes* there is no God.

ii. The 'practical atheist' *lives* as if there is no God.

12. When God becomes **Absent, Distant, Remote** and **Unreal**, we begin to live as though He does not exist, and little by little everything becomes empty and meaningless.

13. How does this disconnect begin?

i. We have **Stepped Out of His Will**.

ii. We have **Disobeyed His Word**.

iii. We have **Lost Fellowship** with Him

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 2 – The Pleasure Pursuit Ecclesiastes 2:1 – 11, 17

1. To recap the last study, the books of the Bible that were written by Solomon are
 - i. **Song of Songs** [Solomon]
As a young man discovering the joys of love and romance.
 - ii. **Proverbs**
As a middle-aged man imparting wisdom to his son.
 - iii. **Ecclesiastes**
As an old man whose heart had turned away from God.

2. What is the progression that we see here?

When the **HEART** turns away from God it is not long before the **MIND** turns away.

When the **MIND** has turned it is not long before the **LIFE** turns away from God.

When the **LIFE** turns away from God you have to **PURSUE MEANING** in whatever way you hope to find it.

3. Having turned away from God, Solomon searched for meaning through:
Pleasure, Power and Prosperity.

4. The 3 areas of 'Pleasure' were:

- i. **WIT** read verse 2 and 1 Kings 4:18
- ii. **WINE** read verse 3
- iii. **WOMEN** read verse 8b

What did this 'pleasure' prove to be? **MEANINGLESS!**

5. Verses 4 – 6

Solomon undertook great 'building projects'. Employing the very best craftsmen, and using the best materials, he built magnificent Temples and Palaces but these were eventually destroyed by the Babylonians.

Verse 7

Solomon possessed a great many slaves. This was a mark of his power.

6. There is no doubt that in his day Solomon was one of the richest men in the world.
7. Whoever loves money never has enough; so this too is **MEANINGLESS!**
8. Read and consider also what is said in Proverbs 31:2 - 3
9. Some pleasures will make you poor. Proverbs 21
Some pleasures will make you rich. Psalm 16

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun

Part 3 – A Time For Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 15

1. This is actually not an easy passage to study and understand, but as we go through it systematically we trust the Lord will shed some light on it for you.
2. There is a time and a season for everything. However, this is a human perspective as we only know that which we can see, hear, smell, touch, taste or reason.
3. We are presented with 6 pairs of contrasts; 3 of which are obvious, with the other 3 being difficult.

The Obvious: A time to be **Born**, and a time to **Die**.
 A time to **Weep**, and a time to **Laugh**.
 A time to **Keep**, and a time to **Throw Away**.

The Difficult: A time to **Kill**, and a time to **Heal**.
 A time for **Love**, and a time for **Hate**.
 A time for **War**, and a time for **Peace**.

4. Solomon, writing 'under the sun' [this phrase is used 32 times] come to the conclusion that all of this is 'meaningless' [this word is used 35 times], and that it is like trying to 'chase after the wind' [and expression used 9 times].

Solomon is **trying to make sense of life!**

5. These lists of contrasts can be looked at 2 ways in terms of human experience.
 - i. As an **Observation** of Life.
 - ii. As an **Interpretation** of Life.
6. For Solomon there is a feeling of helplessness; things just happen. We are participants in a meaningless process over which we have little control; and we feel that there is little we can do to change this feeling of unrelenting repetition.

Do you ever feel that way?

7. The 3 philosophical views are:
 - i. **Determinism**
 - ii. **Pre-Determinism**
 - iii. **Compatibilism**

8. Determinism proposes the idea that there is an unbroken chain of prior occurrences that go back to the origin of the universe, and that the universe is governed by laws of cause and effect resulting in only one possible state at any point in time – and this is it!

The resigned acceptance of Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:15 supports this philosophy.

9. What is Pre-Determinism?
This is also sometimes referred to a 'Pre-destination'

Whereas 'Determinism' is a natural phenomenon, 'Pre-Determinism' is a supernatural phenomenon, in that it goes back to God ordaining things before the natural process began

There are 2 versions of this:

- i. One is that God plans every event that happens in advance. However, this also necessitates looking for meaning and purpose in evil!
- ii. This view is that God **sees** every event in advance. He does not cause them, but He knows they are going to happen.

Solomon appears to support this view in Proverbs 16:33

10. What is 'Compatibilism'?

This view takes both determinism and pre-determinism into account and attempts to reconcile these ideas with the **free will of man** to choose or change situations.

Read Solomon's view in Proverbs 2

11. Churches often teach that we should:

Enhance the Positives.
Reject the negatives.

There is a whole lifestyle built around 'Positive Thinking'.

Is there anything wrong with that?

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 4 – Meaning in Work and Wealth Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 15

1. At this time Solomon is an old, jaded man who has turned away from God.
2. In this study we will look at an important pursuit in which we are all engaged; that being **WORK**, and arising from that, **WEALTH**.
3. The 3 ingredients in our life that are implied here are:

WORK This is an activity that is a means to an end,
designed to accomplish something that is needed.

PLAY This is an activity that is an end in itself.

REST This is an absence of activity.

The Bible encourages that we participate in all of these to an appropriate degree.

4. Three things come out of Solomon's jaded perspective of work and labour 'under the sun'
 - i. A sense of **Futility**.
 - ii. A sense of **Fatigue**.
 - iii. A sense of **Failure**.

5. If we live for 75 years we will spend in continuous time:

- 25 years asleep in bed.
- 5 years eating
- Almost 3 years at school.
- A few years playing
- 2 years 4 months on the toilet.
- And if you retire at 65, no less than 10 continuous years at work.

Then at the end – Ecclesiastes 2:21

There is a futility to it all - from Solomon's perspective.

6. Work becomes a delicate balancing act.

Too little - we risk not having enough to live on.

Too much - we risk our health and our families.

7. If we work too little? We **Starve**.
If we work too much? We **Burn Out**.
8. According to Ecclesiastes 5:12 the bigger problem is working too much.
9. The illusion of wealth is that “The more I have, the more content I will be”.
10. A sense of HOPE is what Solomon was really looking for in his work and wealth
11. Solomon was looking for hope in the following:
 - i. Work for money Ecclesiastes 10:19b
But read Ecclesiastes 5:10 and you will discover that this is never enough.
 - ii. Work to Live Ecclesiastes 6:7
But ‘working to live’ does not bring any sense of satisfaction.
 - iii. Work to Prove Something Ecclesiastes 4:4
This too is meaningless.
You may well have heard the expression ‘Keeping Up with the Jones’s’
All that means is that – you are spending money that you **don’t have**, to buy things you **don’t need**, to impress people you **don’t like**.

Can there BE anything more meaningless than that?
 - iv. Work for Your Kids Ecclesiastes 4:8
Are you really helping your kids by leaving them money?
It would be far better to teach them how to earn money in an honest manner,
and then how to manage money properly and sensibly.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun Part 5 – Remember Your Creator When You Are Young Ecclesiastes 12:1 - 8

1. Solomon started life extremely well, and he certainly accomplished more than the average person, but sadly, in his old age, he turned away from God. As he reflected upon the meaning of life he concludes that everything is just 'meaningless'
2. Solomon leaves a legacy for young people based on 3 reasons.
3. Remember your Creator when you are young.
4. The 3 reasons are:
 - i. Ecclesiastes 12:1c Before you **Mess Up**.
 - ii. Ecclesiastes 1:2 Before you **Get Old**.
 - iii. Ecclesiastes 12:6 Before you **Die**.
5. We should remember our creator because He IS our creator.
We should not do anything or plan anything without reference to Him.
6. We believe in a Creator not because we need one for life to make sense, but because He has revealed Himself to us -
 - i. In **Creation**
 - ii. In **Conscience**
 - iii. In **Christ**
7. We should remember our Creator because:
 - i. He **MADE** you
 - ii. He **KNOWS** you
 - iii. He **LOVES** you
 - iv. He has **PLANS** for you
8. Youth is the most important time in a person's life because during youth:
 - i. The **Strongest Impressions** are made
 - ii. The **Biggest Decisions** are made.
 - iii. It is a time of the **Greatest Temptations**.
See 2 Timothy 2:22

It is a time during which it is easy to waste your life.

9. Solomon is say to be happy while you are young, but also at this time do not forget your creator – with all that implies.
10. Remember your creator before

1. Sight is dimmed.	2. Getting Depressed.
3. you have Trembling Hands.	4. Stooping Posture.
5. Losing Teeth.	6. Cataracts on your Eyes.
7. Loss of Hearing.	8. Awakening Early.
9. Increased Fears.	
10. Hair goes grey or white ... or just Goes.	11. Movements are Slow.
12. Decreased Sexual Drive.	13. Weakened Spinal Cord.
14. Deteriorating Mental Powers	15. Loss of Bladder Control.
16. Heart Failure.	

11. Old age will inevitably come to all of us, but Youth is a time of:
Creativity, Vigor and Energy.
12.
 - i. Make sure it is **Under the Lordship of Christ.**
 - ii. That it is for the **Purposes of God.**
 - iii. Then it will Bring Fulfillment.
13. The last image is that our spirit returns to the God who gave it

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Ecclesiastes – Life Under The Sun

Part 6 – The Whole Duty of Man

Ecclesiastes 12:13- 14

1. The theme of Ecclesiastes is perhaps depressing as it asserts that life is meaningless
As we bring to a conclusion this study on what is the meaning of life we will look at many of the great philosophers of the past to see what they have to say on this subject.

2.
 - i. **PLATO** Looked for meaning in KNOWLEDGE
Read Ecclesiastes 1:18
 - ii. **ARISTOTLE** Looked for meaning in GOODNESS
Read Ecclesiastes 6:12
 - iii. **EPECURUS** Looked for meaning in PLEASURE
Read Ecclesiastes 2:1
 - iv. **The STOICS** Looked for meaning in AVOIDING PAIN
Read Ecclesiastes 2:22 - 23
 - v. **The BEATLES** ["All You Need Is Love" etc.]
Looked for meaning in LOVE
Read Ecclesiastes 9:9
 - vi **BOB DYLAN** in the words of his song
"Let Me Die In My Footsteps"
Looked for meaning in INDEPENDENCE
Read Ecclesiastes 9:5

Solomon tried all of these – but still did not find what he was looking for.

3. What Solomon was looking for is found in the words,
"Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."
4. Having read those verses are you any closer to understanding what is 'The Fear Of God?'
5. A person who takes all His **PROMISES** seriously;
and who takes all His **WARNINGS** seriously.

6. You have to give your life away first [to Jesus Christ] before you can find it.
7. A lot of modern church teaching only likes to focus on the promises that speak of material and physical blessings; but we would ignore at our peril those warnings of God's judgment that persist in sinning against God.