

Passage Study Guide - Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:7

Series: Ecclesiastes



Part 1: Getting to the Big Idea

Questions get to the Big Idea of the passage

1. Identify a phrase/idea that is repeated in 11:1-6. What is the point that the preacher is trying to make about life circumstances? What is his corresponding advice?
2. What are the two contrasting life circumstances that the Preacher describes in 11:7-10? Identify the phrases associated with each one.
3. How is the Preacher's exhortation to "rejoice in our youth" connected to his warning about God's judgment (11:9-10)?
4. How does the imagery in 12:1-7 illustrate death and final judgement? What is the Preacher's appeal in light of death and final judgement?
5. How does rejoicing and remembering our Creator help the Preacher cope with the reality of suffering, death and final judgment?

Part 2: Takeaways & Applications

Applying the passage to our lives to grow in Christlikeness

Fallen Condition Questions

Considering our idols and temptations; how we are both sinners and sufferers

1. The Preacher encourages us to allow our enjoyment in life to lead us to rejoice in God. Consider the things we enjoy. How might we enjoy them without remembering and rejoicing in God?
2. Consider our life circumstances (good or bad) that make us forget our Creator. What signs and symptoms do we exhibit when we forget our Creator?

Personal Renewal Questions

Considering how we can be renewed and transformed in Christlikeness

3. In 12:1-7, the Preacher reminds us to remember and rejoice in our Creator now to strengthen us for the dark days ahead.
 - a) How do the person and work of Jesus shape the way we remember and rejoice in God?
 - b) Translate the poetic language (12:1-7) into tangible and concrete circumstances. What might these dark days ahead look like for us in the modern day?
 - c) How will remembering and rejoicing in Jesus now prepare and strengthen us during these dark days?

Shaping Church Culture Questions

Considering how the gospel shapes and permeates the culture within our community

4. According to the Preacher, 'enjoyment of life is not only permitted but it is commanded by God. It is not only an opportunity, it is a divine imperative.' Think about the blessings we shared earlier that we are tempted to enjoy apart from God. Help each other to connect these blessings back to rejoicing in God's faithfulness and love for us. Close in prayer by asking the Spirit to help us remember and rejoice in Jesus.