



Remember Your Creator

Ecclesiastes 11:7–12:8 (NIV)

Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun. ⁸ However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many. Everything to come is meaningless. ⁹ You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. ¹⁰ So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless. ^{12:1} Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; ³ when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; ⁴ when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint; ⁵ when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets. ⁶ Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, ⁷ and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. ⁸ "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless!"

Sermon Sentence: A meaningful life is experienced by the early and sustained practice of joy and remembrance.

A Meaningful Life Is Experienced...

by the Early and Sustained Practice of Joy

by the Early and Sustained Practice of Remembrance.

Live It!

- Practice Joy!

- Practice Remembrance!

- Star Now! Don't Delay!

Open It!

How would you rate your capacity for enjoying life on a scale of one to ten? Why?

Consider It!

The word translated meaningless (hebel) literally means wind, breath, or vapor (Prov. 21:6). How is life vaporous, fleeting or meaningless (11:8,10; 12:8)?

Read Ecclesiastes 11:7-10.

How are you encouraged to enjoy the years of your life (11:8-10)?

What are we called to remember while enjoying life (11:8)? Why?

What is the cautionary word given to young people as they seek to enjoy life (11:9)?

Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-7.

What kind of relationship with God does the word "remember" call us to have (12:1)?

We are called to remember the One who made us before several events occur. What events are suggested by the word, before (12:1, 2, 6)?

How or in what ways do young people fail to remember the One who made them? How do we fail to remember our creator as we grow old?

Why is it wise to establish a right relationship with God while you are young?

How does a lifetime of knowing God serve you when you are old?

What step will you take this week to begin or renew the practice of joy and remembrance?