



## The End of the Matter

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 (NIV)

*Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. <sup>10</sup> The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true. <sup>11</sup> The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd. <sup>12</sup> Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wears the body. <sup>13</sup> Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

### Sermon Proposition:

A meaningful life is lived in the fear of God.

*Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV)

**People who fear God listen to His words.**

**People who fear God obey His commands.**

**People who fear God do not fear judgement.**

## Open It!

Who has helped you grow in wisdom and maturity? Share how this person helped you.

## Consider It!

What was the author's approach to writing Ecclesiastes (12:9-10)?

What purpose does wisdom literature serve (12:11)? What is the purpose of a goad? What is the purpose of nails?

What is the significance of these words originating from one Shepherd (12:11; Ps. 12; Ps 100)?

What is the warning in this passage (12:12)? How do we add or subtract to God's word in contemporary evangelical culture? What scripture do we overlook or ignore?

How is seeking the divine wisdom different from seeking other sources of wisdom (12:12; James 3:17)?

What does it mean to fear God? What is the relationship between fearing God and obedience (12:13)?

Should the Christian fear judgement (12:14)? Why or Why not?

## Live It!

What advice or counsel could you give to a younger or less mature Christ-follower?

What is something about the Christian life that you would you like to learn? Who might help you?