

# **Ecclesiastes**

## ***Living in Light of the End***

### **How To Walk With One Foot in The Grave**

#### **Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Aug. 20, 2023*

**Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8** “Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. <sup>8</sup> So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity. <sup>9</sup> Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. <sup>10</sup> Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

<sup>1</sup> Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; <sup>2</sup> before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, <sup>3</sup> in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, <sup>4</sup> and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— <sup>5</sup> they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— <sup>6</sup> before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, <sup>7</sup> and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. <sup>8</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord. Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

#### **I. You need to know God actually commands joy, happiness and delight!**

**Ecclesiastes 11:9** “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.”

**Deuteronomy 28:47-48** “Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, <sup>48</sup> therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.”

#### **3 Ways to Start to Grow in Joy, Happiness, & Delight**

A. Start small by pursuing gratitude for the little things.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

*If you can't find joy in the little things in life,  
you probably won't find it in the big things.*

B. Come to the realization that **grumpiness** is a sin, and repent.

**Philippians 2:14-15** “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...”

C. Realize how much joy you’ve lost due to **anxiety**, and put it to death.

**Luke 12:22,25-26** “And He said to His disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on...<sup>25</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?’”

## II. You need to act with urgency because your time is running out!

**Ecclesiastes 11:10** “Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.”

**Ecclesiastes 12:1,6-8** “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’...<sup>6</sup> before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern,<sup>7</sup> and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. <sup>8</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.”

### **Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. How has Ecclesiastes challenged or changed your understanding of what it means to be young, and what it means to be old?
2. Is your future shaping your present? How?
3. Think about how you normally understand the commands you come across in the Bible. How will you respond to God’s command that you enjoy the things He has given us?
4. Review the “3 Ways To Grow in Joy, Happiness, and Delight.” Which one should you put into practice today? Why?
5. How have you seen anxiety rob you of joy?
6. If you are young, how can you “remember your Creator?”
7. If you are old, how can you rejoice in God’s gifts, and be thankful for gifts past?