

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Series – The Beginning of Wisdom

Message – The Final Analysis

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Fifth Reformed Church

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- Worldly wisdom tells us _____ to do. Biblical wisdom tells us to _____ to turn.

What Was Said

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-2; 12:8
- *Habel* – translated “meaningless” literally means _____
- “Ecclesiastes mainly teaches us to see how meaningless life is _____ God” (Philip Ryken, Why Everything Matters, p.130).

How & Why It Was Said

How It Was Said (Ecclesiastes 12:9-10)

- Ecclesiastes is wisdom that has been _____ with us.
- Ecclesiastes is based on _____ the Lord and presented with a _____ progression of thought.
- Ecclesiastes is wisdom shared with _____.
- Ecclesiastes tells the _____ about life in a fallen world.

Why It Was Said (Ecclesiastes 12:11-12)

- Goad – “Think of the Ecclesiastes as the Bible’s cattle prod.”
- Ecclesiastes keeps us moving towards God when we _____ like stopping.
- Like nails hold together the frame of your house, God’s wisdom holds together the parts of your life even through the _____ of times.
- Also, God’s wisdom sticks with you.

Who Said It

- Ecclesiastes 12:11
- The Shepherd is _____, who gives wisdom.
- Warning... Ecclesiastes 12:12

The Conclusion

- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- On the fear of the Lord...

“It is not only the beginning of wisdom; it is also the beginning of joy, of contentment and of an energetic and purposeful life. The [Teacher] wishes to deliver us from a rosy-colored, self-confident, godless life, with its inevitable cynicism and bitterness, and from trusting in wisdom, pleasure, wealth and human justice or integrity. He wishes to drive us to see that God is there, that He is good and generous, and that only such an outlook makes life coherent and fulfilling” (Michael Eaton, quoted in Philip Ryken, Why Everything Matters, p.139).

- The Shepherd became our Savior.

Reflection Questions

1. How would you explain to a friend new to the Bible the claim of Ecclesiastes that “Everything is meaningless”?
2. Ecclesiastes tells the truth about life in a fallen world. How do you experience the “vapor” nature of life apart from God?
3. How has the wisdom of scripture helped you in challenging seasons of life?
4. Does the conclusion of Ecclesiastes change your perspective on what it means to “Fear God”? If so, how?
5. What did you find most helpful/challenging in this message?
6. How is God getting your attention?
7. What might God be saying to you?
8. What is your next faithful step?