

# LIVING UNDER THE SUN

Ecclesiastes 12:1, 9-14

1. The gift of life is shorter than you think – Remember your Creator. v. 1
2. The way we live is more important than we believe – Fear God and keep His commands. v. 13
3. The wonder of life is more amazing than we can imagine – Follow Jesus! 1 Peter 1:3-9; Eph 3:20

## **Ecclesiastes 12:1**

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"

## **Ecclesiastes 12:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. <sup>10</sup> The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

<sup>11</sup> The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. <sup>12</sup> My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

<sup>13</sup> The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, with <sup>[d]</sup> every secret thing, whether good or evil.



# Living Under the Sun

---

May 23, 2021



**Open:** Think of some people you admire as wise. What do you admire about them?

**Read:** Ecclesiastes 12:9-14.

## Discuss

1. Verses 9-10 are about the Preacher, whose words we have heard throughout most of this book. What do we learn about the Preacher from these two verses? What lessons have you learned from the Preacher in Ecclesiastes about how to live?
2. Verse 10 says that "the Preacher sought to find words of delight." How is the pursuit of wisdom also the pursuit of "delight"? Why else should we value wisdom and what it can bring us?
3. What does it mean that "the words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings" (v. 11)? Why are we so often prone to think we're an exception to the collected wisdom of the wise?
4. Of these words of wisdom, verse 11 also says "they are given by one Shepherd" (*See Psalm 80:1.*) What does this tell us about how to gain wisdom? When verse 12 says to "beware of anything beyond these," what advice would the writer likely give regarding wisdom found in sources that do not come directly from God?
5. How have you found it true that "of making many books there is no end, and much study is weariness for the flesh" (v. 12)? What is the proper role of education and learning in the life of the believer?
6. Verse 13 says, "The end of the matter, all has been heard." What exactly "has been heard"? How would you put the writer's summary lesson of verse 13 into your own words?
7. The basis for the writer's conclusion is stated in verse 14. Why would his observation in verse 14 drive his conclusion of verse 13? The writer would not have known of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How might knowing the Gospel have reshaped his conclusion?

**Apply:** How can you practice the proper pursuit of wisdom this week?

**Pray:** Ask God to help us joyfully fear Him and keep his commandments.

## **Ecclesiastes 12:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. <sup>10</sup> The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

<sup>11</sup> The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. <sup>12</sup> My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

<sup>13</sup> The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (ESV)