

Ecclesiastes: The Quest for Meaning Application Questions

Part 11

Ecclesiastes 12:9 - 14

1. Read Ecclesiastes 12:9 - 12. How is the Preacher's purpose and aim for writing this book described in these verses?
2. What does the author mean in verse 11 that the Preacher's words are like "goads" and "nails"? In what ways do you need to be poked and prodded along in your walk with God down the path of wisdom? Are you currently walking down any of the dead end roads that the Preacher has already explored and told us only leads to vanity under the sun? (i.e. money, knowledge, morality, popularity, pleasure, hard work, empty religion, etc.) Do you need to be poked with any of his prods so that you don't go down the wrong road in your search for meaning?
3. According to verses 13 - 14 what is the main message of the book Ecclesiastes? How does this fit with the Preacher's emphasis throughout the book on vanity?
4. What does it mean to fear God and keep his commands in verse 13? (You may want to listen again to last 15 minutes of the message online.) Spend some time reflecting on and evaluating your own reverence and awe of God.
5. Read Luke 12:1 - 7. What does Jesus teach about the fear God? How does fearing God actually free you from living a life enslaved to fear and worry?
6. Think of these two practical areas in your life: finances and time management. How is fearing God and keeping his commandments applicable in these areas? Are there any areas in your life that God may be leading you to completely lay down?
7. In what way would you like to see your life affected and changed by this sermon series, *Ecclesiastes: The Quest for Meaning*? Spend some time in prayer.
 - Pray for a deeper hunger to feed on biblical wisdom and apply it to your everyday life.
 - Ask God to give you a greater taste for the things of heaven and eternity. Pray through Colossians 3:1-4.