

# CHASING THE WIND

## Part 12: The Conclusion of the Matter

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### Ecclesiastes 12

Remember your Creator  
in the days of your youth,  
before the days of trouble come  
and the years approach when you will say,  
"I find no pleasure in them"—

<sup>2</sup> before the sun and the light  
and the moon and the stars grow dark,  
and the clouds return after the rain;

<sup>3</sup> when the keepers of the house tremble,  
and the strong men stoop,  
when the grinders cease because they are few,  
and those looking through the windows  
grow dim;

<sup>4</sup> when the doors to the street are closed  
and the sound of grinding fades;  
when people rise up at the sound of birds,  
but all their songs grow faint;

<sup>5</sup> when people are afraid of heights  
and of dangers in the streets;  
when the almond tree blossoms  
and the grasshopper drags itself along  
and desire no longer is stirred.

Then people go to their eternal home  
and mourners go about the streets.

<sup>6</sup> Remember him—  
before the silver cord is severed,  
and the golden bowl is broken;

before the pitcher is shattered at the spring,  
and the wheel broken at the well,  
<sup>7</sup> and the dust returns to the ground it  
came from,  
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

<sup>8</sup> "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.  
"Everything is meaningless!"

<sup>9</sup> 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.

### Verse 1: Remember your Creator in the days of your youth

Remember and recognize that God is the Creator

In highlighting the Creator, the Teacher is also saying that  
you are the Creation.

### Verses 2-7: A poem about growing old and death

2-5: Interesting metaphors for getting old

6-7: Interesting metaphors for death

**This highlights a very important point:**

If you're not dead, it's not too late!

## **Verse 8: Everything is meaningless**

**Eccl. 1:2** “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

**Ecc 12:8** “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Everything is meaningless!”

## **Verses 9-14: The Conclusion of the Matter**

The Teacher gives us the perspective of the creator.

Fear God and keep his commandments

When you fear God and keep his commandments, everything has meaning and importance, both for your present and your eternity.

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) The FaceApp has gone viral this week, showing what you might look like as you age. Have you tried it yourself or seen other people's photos? What was your reaction?
- 2) As we worked through the first 11 chapters of Ecclesiastes, how were you feeling? What were you thinking?
- 3) Does it encourage you to know that as long as you're not dead, it's not too late? Do you know of someone who needs to hear or embrace that?
- 4) How does it make you think or feel that every action and deed matters so much to God that He would take the time to evaluate (judge) it?
- 5) Has our journey through Ecclesiastes changed your perspective in any way? How has / is / will that be reflected in the choices you make or the way you live?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?