



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Ecclesiastes Sermon Series
Supports Session: What Is Life About?
Sermon Title: “That’s a Wrap”
Passage: Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Connection to Ecclesiastes 12

Solomon concludes Ecclesiastes with a summary of his teaching that is similar to Jesus’ summation of the law and prophets—the command to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matt. 22:37). Solomon concluded that the chief end of humanity is to fear God and keep His commandments (v. 13).

Introduction/Opening

Cliff’s Notes and book abstract websites are often used when students fail to read the book assigned in class. These tools assist a student by summarizing a book’s main topic so the (non) reader can have a working knowledge or pass a test. Solomon summarized the entire teaching of Ecclesiastes regarding the meaning of life at the end of his book.

We are commanded to be attentive to the entirety of God’s law and should pay attention very closely when such summarizing statements are made.

Outline

I. Make it easier for others (v. 11).

Mature believers take the initiative and sift through, arrange, and teach God’s Word in easily accessible ways to younger believers, whether they are younger spiritually or chronologically. Wisdom as a teacher is shown not only in quantity of knowledge communicated, but also in the way it is delivered. We should seek to simplify the process of knowing and understanding of the Lord in our teaching (Jer. 9:23-24).

II. Be a nail (v. 11).

Each believer functions as a “embedded nail” within the church, holding up the truth and beauty of the gospel to others. An “embedded nail” is one that, once it is placed, remains in the wall. Embedded nails are inseparable from the house’s stability. The greater the number of embedded nails in the home’s wall, flooring, etc., the more confidence those living in the house have for the home. A tremendous reputation of trust and confidence exists when believers decide to “embed” in and grow in their churches, communities, and workplaces.

Embedded nails have the power to endure storms. Builders want materials that can endure difficult shifts in weather, temperature, pressure, etc. Believers with Christlike wisdom can weather storms and remain embedded for the good of their families, churches, and the glory of God.

III. Why practice obedience? (vv. 13-14)

Believers should practice obedience because it is objectively good, right, and true for all people across all cultures, races, and nationalities. God's law is not just true most of the time and in most locations, Scripture is true in all places and at all times. Therefore, obedience is key because God's laws are universal and given for the purpose of human flourishing and for God's glory.

Obedience is necessary because God will not only judge external behavior but every thought, emotion, attitude, and motivation. Obedience to God's law is essential because humanity is not the ultimate judge, but rather God will judge each individual.

Conclusion

Summarizations are more profound and impactful when attention is paid to all the details of the entire work. Solomon provided a full summary of the purpose of life, but it is incumbent upon believers to be attentive to all the details of God's Word.

How does Solomon summarizing the meaning of life convict you? Are you being obedient both to fear God and keep His commands? You might feel uniquely called to invest your life in others by being a teacher who makes it easier for others to learn. You might feel the leading of the Spirit to embed yourself in this church family and support the work of Christ in this local church. We must put obedience into practice and follow Christ however He leads.

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