

# The End of the Matter – Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 11:1-8

“Watching the wind” – January 5, 2020



## Introduction

As much as we like to tell ourselves that we can learn enough and know enough to take control of our future, the reality is, we don't know what tomorrow holds. There is one who does, but it is not us. Isaiah 46:9b-10 says, "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'" How then are we to live when we don't know what tomorrow holds? In Ecclesiastes 11:1-8, we're told, *Life is beyond our control, so we must trust God to enjoy life and endure dark days.*

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Trust God (11:1-6)
- II. Enjoy Life and Endure Dark Days (11:7-8)

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Ecclesiastes 11:1-6](#)

Four times in these verses we're confronted with what we *don't* know (v2, v5a, v5b, v6). And yet, the commands in these verses call us give our life away – for the good of others and the glory of God. As we do, we express our trust in God, not our being in control. The risk the Preacher calls us to is not recklessness or ignorant folly, but obedience to God's word. We read the commands and promises of God in Scripture, step out in obedience, and trust God with the results. On Sunday, we walked through several examples of how this might look in terms of *giving, location, friendship* and *evangelism*. What are other examples of how this may look in *your* life in light of the commands and promises of God's word? Jesus talks about losing our life for His sake in order to find it (see the Luke 9 reading below) – are you living to save your life (merely trying to delay the inevitable: *death*) or are you truly living: taking biblical risks for God's glory and the good of others?

Additional Reading: Luke 9:23-25; Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:13-21

- 2) Read [Ecclesiastes 11:7-8](#)

'All that comes is *vanity*' the Preacher says in v8. 'Vanity' reminds us how life is brief, fleeting and ungraspable – both with our minds or our muscle. Life is not something to be

manipulated for selfish ends, it is a gift from God. As God gives us life, we are to give thanks and enjoy life. When we face dark days, we are to rely on Him that we may endure them. Once again, Ecclesiastes points us to the end – remember that death is coming. If the problem of death can be resolved, we can start at the end, work back in our minds to where we are now, and live without fear. Its then we can find freedom to accept risk – not because we know what tomorrow holds or can control it, but because we *trust* the God who does.

When we do open our hand and trust...what will keep us from caving to fear? God provides a several 'means of grace' to strengthen our faith – means that we must take advantage of as we walk by faith, not by sight ([2 Cor. 5:7](#)).

1) Prayer – As we cast our burdens on God in prayer, He cares for us ([Ps. 55:22](#), [1 Pet. 5:6-7](#)). Are you taking time to pour out your heart to God?

2) God's Word – Fear is connected to a false view of God we are believing. Scripture is God's revelation of Himself to us! As we see Him in His word, we are built up and transformed ([2 Cor. 3:18](#)). Are laboring to read, study, memorize and cherish God's word?

3) God's People – We're not meant to live the Christian life in isolation. We need the encouragement of our church family – that's why we're called to meet together (see [Hebrews 10:24-25](#) and [3:12-13](#)). Is gathering with God's people a non-negotiable for you and your family? Who are you encouraging during the week that needs reminders of God's word, a listening ear, or someone to pray with? Who are you relying on?

Additional Reading: Romans 10:17, Luke 22:31-32

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <b>Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8 "Remember your Creator"</b>
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