

# The End of the Matter – Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8

“Remember your Creator” – January 12, 2020



## Introduction

True joy is found in God and the enjoyment of His good gifts, in good times and bad. When faced with questions we don't have answers to, we are to trust Him. How then do we *maintain* this contentment, this joy in a fallen world?

## 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. Enjoy life: as a gift from God (11:9-12:1a)
- II. Choose joy while you still can (12:1b-12:8)

## Read & Discuss

1) Read [Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1](#) How can we maintain the joy we find in trusting God?

i) Rejoice (11:9a) – Joy is not found in the path we choose, but in God and following Him where He leads us. As with any command, we must *choose*: do I want this? Will I obey?

ii) Walk (11:9b) – Though the world calls us to put ourselves at the center to find joy, it's *actually* found when God is the center. While youthfulness may promise the potential of greatness, the Preacher calls us to trust God and walk *His* way, with Him at the center. We can pretend now...but one day the reality of God's supremacy will be seen and treasured by all. Better to submit to Him now than regret later for choosing our own path.

iii) Remove (11:10) – We may not be able to change our own hearts or heal our own bodies, but we don't have to dwell *only* on the things that create irritation, anger or anxiety. We can choose to dwell on what is true and what is good ([Phil. 4:8](#)) – we can pray instead of worry ([Phil. 4:6-7](#)). In faith, can you trust God with the frustrations and enjoy God and His gifts (things like friends, family, apple pie, and sunsets) while you can?

iv) Remember (12:1) – Remembering our Creator means remembering our limitations, that we are His creation...not the Creator. It means loving, trusting, and obeying Him as King. We're reluctant to do so when we fail to see the truth about who God is. What can you do to remember your Creator...to fill you heart & mind with the truth of His character and *act* on those truths? How can we help *each other* do this as a church family?

Additional Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

2) Read [Ecclesiastes 12:1-8](#)

The command to *remember your Creator* is an *urgent* one. We have no time to waste. To underline the urgency and compel us to choose joy in God and the gifts He gives today, the Preacher walks thru an honest (yet grim) picture of the process of aging in 12:3-5. At the conclusion of the aging process, death comes to us all. Once again, the Preacher calls us to look to the end and live *today* in light of what we know about that end. Do you live today in light of that end...or are their ways that you *ignore*, *deny* or *distract* yourself from that reality? Look to God...who's not *distant* to us in the aging process but Shepherds us and carries us each step of the way. How does that reality and *seeing Him*, move us from fear to hope as we age? How can it help to *motivate* us to act now before it's too late *then*?

Additional Reading: Isaiah 46:4, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Psalm 116:15

**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>Matthew 9:1-8 "Jesus the Great Physician"</b>
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