

A Perspective of Youth From Someone Who's Been There

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8

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Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.



Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8

they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Road Map

- ◆ **An exhortation from one who is no longer young**
- ◆ **With your Creator in Mind**
- ◆ **Swimming upstream against the Cultural Current**

An Exhortation from one who is no longer young

➤ Psalm 24:1 (a Psalm of David)

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,

➤ To the young person Solomon would exhort you to be observant.

➤ Remember that we will all give an account for the life we have lived

➤ Hebrews 9:27

An Exhortation from one who is no longer young

- **Remove “vexation”**
 - *“An anger produced by some annoying irritation.”*
- **Put away “pain”, or “evil”**
 - If Vexation is a spiritual injury, then pain, or evil is a physical injury.
 - Romans 14:12

With Your Creator in Mind

- **Ecc 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth.**
 - Solomon speaks to the young man, but also to those more advanced in years
- **“Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth,”**
 - **Luke 10:38-42**
 - **Desire the better things**

Swimming Upstream Against a Cultural Current

- **Wisdom can be found in people of all ages**
 - It is generally accepted that wisdom is acquired over time
 - Wise counsel was sought from the “Elders” of society
- **Our current societal norm of disparaging the “Elders” in favor of the young and popular is a specific indicator of the spiritual poverty of our culture.**
 - Exodus 20:12
 - Proverbs 19:20

Wrapping it Up

- **The Preacher would tell you that when you're young, everything is an adventure.**
 - **Ecc 11:9b Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.**
 - **It's the Martha scenario: What is the better thing?**
- **The ageing process is not pretty**
 - **Nothing is static. Nothing stays the same.**
 - **Except God!**

Wrapping it Up

- **The same God who is there in your youth will be there at the end of life as well.**
 - **Psa 54:4 Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder (sustainer) of my life.**
- **Everything outside of God and our lives in Him, is “Vanity”**
 - **“Are you keeping your attention centered on God and our serving Him?”**

