

# The End!

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ECCLESIASTES 12:8-14

KEY WORDS: "FEAR GOD"

JANUARY 22, 2017

## Ecclesiastes 12:8-14

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.** For God will bring every deed into judgment with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

# Outline

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1. Full Circle (8)
2. Wise Teaching (9-10)
3. Wise Warning (11-12)
4. Wise Summary (13-14)

# 1. Full Circle (v.8)

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**8 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.**

1:2 – Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

Solomon does not teach us everything we need to know about God

Mark Dever – “Ecclesiastes was never meant to summarize or be a substitute for the entire Bible. To know the truth about God, we need the full revelation of God in the entire Bible.”

## 2. Wise Teaching (9-10)

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**9 Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. 10 The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.**

### The Preacher

- Taught Truth
- Studied Truth
- Recorded Truth

There is a great joy and delight in discovering something about God and sharing it with others.

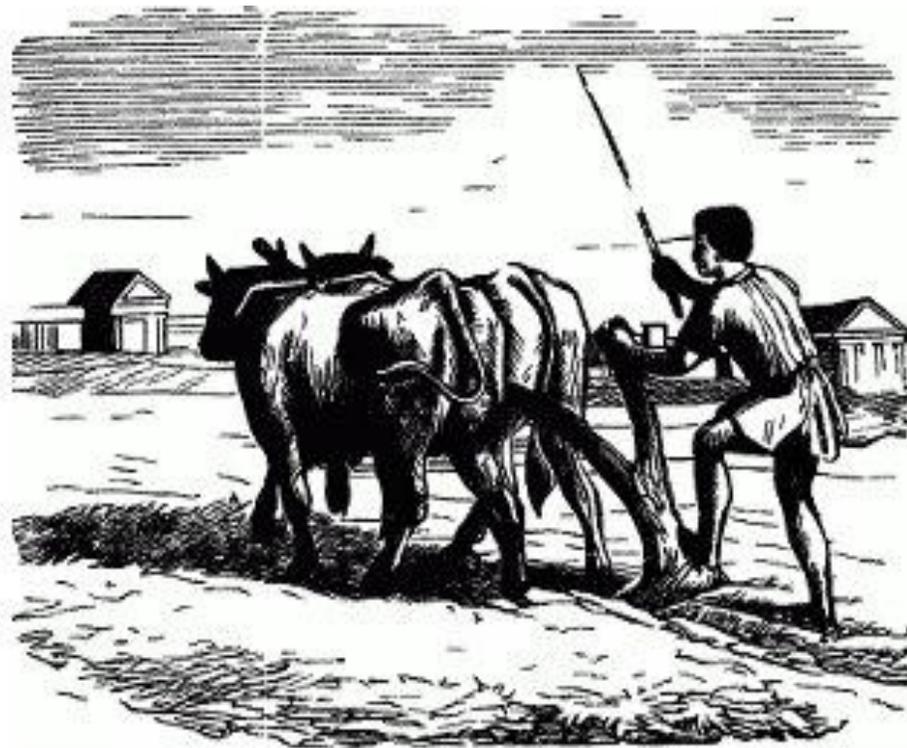
Are you a cul-de-sac for truth or a conduit of truth?

### 3. Wise Warning (11-12)

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**11 The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. 12 My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.**

“A goad is a long, pointed stick used for prodding and guiding oxen while plowing.”



### 3. Wise Warning (11-12)

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**11 The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. 12 My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.**

“A goad is a long, pointed stick used for prodding and guiding oxen while plowing.”

“Nails firmly fixed” – moral and intellectual stability

“given by one Shepherd” – Stability!

“through the living and enduring word of God.” He explains that “this is the word that was preached to you.” (I Peter 1. v 23-25)

## 4. Wise Summary (13-14)

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13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.** 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

### 1. Fear God

“Of all things that are to be known this is the most evident, that God is to be feared, to be revered, served, and worshipped; this is so the beginning of knowledge that those know nothing who do not know this.” Matthew Henry

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## **2. Keep His commandments**

- God's right rules for living

## **3. The whole duty of man**

- This is the main thing

## **4. Eternity is at stake**

- This life is “dress rehearsal for eternity”
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# Take This With You - 3 Things:

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1. A preoccupation with things “under the sun” will always leave you empty and wanting more.
2. A desire to fear God and do what the Word of God instructs you to do will leave you with a deeper love for God and a hunger to know him more.
3. Eternity is at stake.

**Life is short, death is certain, judgment is next**