

## Youth & Age

Ecclesiastes 11:7 - 12:8

- I. **ENJOY YOUR LIFE** (11:7-10; Ps 56:13)
  - A. **Sweetness and Light** (7)—the good pleasures of this life
  - B. **However many years you live** (7-8a)—enjoy *all* of them
    1. You don't know how many.
    2. Each has something to enjoy.
  - C. **Enjoy Your Youth** (9-10; Pr 20:29)
    1. **Follow Your Heart**—what makes you happy
    2. **See the World**—go places, have adventures
    3. **Don't Worry**—live now, not in dread of the future
  
- II. **BUT REMEMBER**—keep a balanced view of life
  - A. **Days of Darkness** (11:8b)—hard times
    1. **Management of Expectations** (Jn 16:33; 1 Pet 4:12)
    2. **Types of Darkness** (2 Cor 7:5)
      - a. **Inside and Outside of Us**
      - b. **General and Personal**
      - c. **Physical, Emotional, Spiritual**
    3. **Treasures of Darkness** (Isa 45:3, 7)—God uses to grow and enrich us
  
  - B. **God's Judgment** (11:9c)
    1. **Omniscient** (1 Cor 14:25; Heb 4:13; 2 Pet 3:10)—knows everything.
    2. **Comprehensive** (Ps 25:7; Job 13:26; 2 Tim 2:22)—whole life
    3. **Personal** (Ps 139; Jer 32:19; Rev 20:12-13)—responsible for *our own* lives, *our own* actions.

**C. Your Creator** (12:1-6)

1. **In Your Youth** (Ps 119:9)—while you are still young
  - a. **So you don't ruin your life**—poor choices
  - b. **So you don't waste your life**—unsatisfying, won't last
2. **Before Days of Trouble**—poetic description of decline of old age
3. **Before Loss of Pleasure**
  - a. **The Years of Old Age**—what do you have without God?
  - b. **The Memory of Your Youth**—joy or regret?
  - c. **The Passing of Worldly Pleasures**—they are fleeting.
4. **Before Your Death** (Heb 9:27)—last chance to get right with God

**III. WHEN YOU DIE** (12:5-7)—What happens to us at death?

**A. Dust Returns to the Ground** (Ps 90:3; 104:29; Job 10:9)—physical body dies and decays

**B. Spirit Returns to God**

1. **He gave it.** (Gen 2:7)—God is the Source, Creator
2. **He will take it back.** (Lk 12:20)—*belongs* to Him, *entrusted* to you
3. **He will judge it.** (Mat 10:28; 12:36; Rom 14:12; 1 Pet 4:5)—what you did with the life He gave you

**C. Our Eternal Home** (5)—the place we will spend eternity

**IV. Vanity, Vanity, All Is Vanity** (11:8, 10; 12:8)—

**A. A Lament**—broken world, brief life under the sun

**B. The Cry for a Savior**

LISTEN TO “Abide With Me ” (Indelible Grace)

<https://youtu.be/S5KsKsEu0v0>