

Understanding the Book of Ecclesiastes: The Bottom Line
Ecclesiastes 12:13,14 (p.711)

Intro

I. The Bottom Line: You Need to _____ God and keep His _____.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. v.13

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon explores all sorts of _____ questions; in chapter 1, Solomon raises the question of _____, and he implies that there is _____.

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? (1:1-3)

In chapter 2, he tries to _____ himself with work, wealth, and pleasure, but everything seemed _____ and lead Solomon to despair.

I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. I made myself gardens and parks and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees.... I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces.... And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. (2:4-10)

So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair... (2:20)

In chapter 3, he accepts that God has His time and purpose for _____, but in chapters 4 and 5, he wrestles with the problem of _____ and happiness.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven... (3:1)

...behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! (4:1)

...what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment...this is the gift of God. (5:18,19)

In chapter 6ff he struggles with unhappiness, and finally he encourages us to _____ God; at the end of the day, it is your responsibility to fear God and _____ Him.

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth.... (12:1)

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments.... v.13

You can raise all of these _____ but remember Who God is and _____ what He says.

II. Because _____ will bring every deed into _____.

It is not wrong to ask questions, but it is not our place to pass _____; the temptation is for us to try to pass judgment on _____.

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. v.13,14

...whatever God does endures forever.... God has done it, so that people fear before him. (3:14)

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God.... God is the one you must fear. (5:1,7)

In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: the one who fears God shall come out from both of them. (7:14,18)

I know that it will be well with those who fear God.... (8:12)

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. (Job 19:25)

many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Dan. 12:2)

Solomon reminds us that God is our _____ and our Judge; remember your _____: God is judge, and we are not. Ultimately, God _____ is able to judge between good and evil.

God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. v.14

There are all sorts of things that we can't possibly _____ or understand; we have to remember our place: our place is _____ God.

do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. (1 Cor. 4:5)

We have to _____ ourselves before God as our Creator; we have to humble ourselves before God as our _____.

...that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (Acts 2:16)

...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment... (Heb. 9:27)

..."he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed...." (Acts 17:31)

Our _____ is at the foot of the cross, where _____ was judged for us; the bottom line: we need to _____ ourselves before Jesus Christ.

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