

**Read** Ecclesiastes 12:6. The breaking of the *silver cord* as stated here refers to the end of our lives. There is coming a day when our lives will end, we must prepare for this day, and for eternity.

There are some things that we can only do when we are young. While we have the **freedom** to do it and while our **flesh** allows us. That is why Solomon instructed us:

*Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;*

As years pass, our bodies age, and our flesh fails, serving God becomes more difficult. This is all the more reason to work today as if there is no tomorrow!

**Look up** John 9:4 where Jesus said “I must work the works of him that sent me, \_\_\_\_\_ the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Let's end this study now by looking at the end of the book of Ecclesiastes, this book on life, where Solomon states his conclusion regarding life and it's purpose.

**Look up** Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for this is the whole duty

of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

After searching his entire life for satisfaction in the world's wealth, wisdom and women, Solomon came to the conclusion that true joy and fulfillment comes only when we submit ourselves to God, fearing Him, obeying Him and preparing for our day of judgment.

**Are you prepared for your day of departure?**

## Tuesday – Self Check!

1. What does James 4:14 say about our lives?
2. What is comforting about Psalm 103:14?
3. Why should we serve God while we are young?
4. What two things may fail, preventing us from serving God?
5. What is the meaning of life?



## 6 We Must Prepare for Our Day of Departure

**Thursday** Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

There is a statistic on which all doctors agree, 1 out of every 1 people are going to die! Although we have seen great advancements in the field of medicine and are now living longer than before, if Christ does not return soon, we will all eventually pass away.

**Look up** Genesis 2:7. And the LORD God formed man of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

In Genesis 2:7 we see the formation of the first man from the dust of the ground. In Ecc 12:7 (speaking of death) we read once again of this dust:

**Look up** Ecc 12:7. Then shall the \_\_\_\_\_ return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

These verses and those in Ecc 12:1-6 remind us of the **fragility of life** and the **inferiority of man**. We are simply dust given life by the breath of God. There is coming a day when this body will decay and return to dust, while our spirit will return to our Creator.

We are told in James 4:14 that our lives are but a \_\_\_\_\_ that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Truly in the grand scheme of things, each of our lives may seem small and ineffectual, but this discounts one very important fact:

**Look up** Psalm 103:14. What does God remember about us?

We must always keep in perspective who and what we are. We are finite creatures with an unavoidable day of departure! Our true worth lies in the fact that we have a Creator and Father who loves us. **How might ignoring this fact affect the way we live?**

## Friday

### *The Potential of the Present*

Yesterday we read about the fragile nature of life and that we are simply dust given life by our loving Heavenly Father. Why did Solomon find it necessary to remind us of this truth in Ecc 12:3-7? Because he recognized that our lives are short and fleeting, and if we are to do anything for God, we must start now!

**Look up** Ecc 12:1 Remember \_\_\_\_\_ thy Creator in the \_\_\_\_\_, while the evil days

come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

The writer of Ecclesiastes encourages us to *remember now* our Creator before the end of our life nears. If truth be told, none of us really know when the end of our lives will be, some will reach old age, and some will not. Some of us may not have a tomorrow, but each of us has the present.

**Write out** Proverbs 27:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been procrastinating in your walk with God? Perhaps God's been convicting you of sin in your life, and you have put off repentance until tomorrow. Perhaps you know God's will but have neglected to do it, waiting for a more convenient time. Maybe still you've been struggling with an undisciplined spiritual life, thinking always of making it better tomorrow.

The Bible never promises a tomorrow. Ecc 12 makes it clear that tomorrow is not easier, but harder to serve God. Each day that we leave unredeemed is one less day to serve God with our whole hearts. It's one more day of sin to confess, one more day for our hearts to grow cold, and it is another day closer to our eventual departure, or his eventual return.

Someone has rightly said "Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone."

You may have great *potential* to do mighty things for God. But God is more interested in your **present obedience** than your **potential abilities**. Make today the day that you kneel before God and submit to his will for your life!

## Saturday

### *The Passing of Our Years*

Nowhere in literature will you find an allegory on aging that can compare to what God gives us in Ecclesiastes 12:3-5.

- a. **The Keepers of the House.** As the years pass, our hands, once strong and steady, begin to tremble.
- b. **The Strong Men.** This speaks of our legs weakening in old age.
- c. **The Grinders.** Later in life, our grinders, or our teeth, "cease because they are few"
- d. **The Windows Darkened.** As we get older, our eyes begin to "darken" and we cannot see well.
- e. **The Doors Shut.** This is referring to the loss of hearing that comes when we get old.
- f. **Rising Up at the voice of the Bird.** Often an indicator of old age is not being able to sleep well.
- g. **Fear of Heights.** Older folks do not enjoy being at great heights as younger people do.
- h. **Fear in the Way.** We become much more cautious about safety as we get older.
- i. **The Almond Tree.** This tree had a beautiful silver color in fruit bearing, which pictures the graying of the hair.
- j. **Mourners in the Streets.** Mourners would cry in the streets when someone was about to die. We need to see the passing of our years in order to make our years count for God.

The service of God becomes more difficult in old age, but it does not become optional!

**Look up** Isaiah 46:4 And even to your \_\_\_\_\_ I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

God's promises extend even to those who have begun to feel the frailties of the flesh. God's message to us in Ecc 12 is this, do the work now, today, while you have youth, for the day is coming when this service will become difficult to perform. **What do you wish you had accomplished for God in your youth? What can you do to rectify that?**