

## Conclusion

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

- I. **THE TEACHER** (9-10)—the author, the scripture
  - A. **Collected Wisdom** ()—passed through generations of God’s people
    1. **Pondered**
    2. **Searched out**
    3. **Set in Order**
  - B. **Imparted Knowledge**—to the common people, for everyone
    1. **The Delivery**—careful, intentional, well-crafted
      - a. **Searched for just the right words**—careful expression
      - b. **Wrote them down**—preserved them for posterity
    2. **The Quality**
      - a. **Upright**—honest, honorable, righteous, just
      - b. **True**—not just pretty words; they are *true*
    3. **The Purpose**
      - a. **Goad**—keeps you moving, directs in the path of wisdom
      - b. **Nails** firmly embedded—holds your life together
- II. **THE SHEPHERD** (11-12)—The LORD
  - A. **One Shepherd** (Ps 23; Ps 80:1; Ps 100:3; Isa 40:11)—The LORD
    1. **Providing** (Ps 23:1, 2)—feeds, makes sure we have all we need
    2. **Guiding** (Ps 23:2, 3)—goes before and leads us
    3. **Protecting** (Ps 23:4)—keeps us safe from danger and predators
    4. **Tending** (Ps 23:5; Isa 40:11)—gentle, attentive presence with us

**B. One Source** (Gal 1:8-9; 1 Thes 2:13; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21)

1. **Divine**—God-breathed, inspired by God
2. **Authoritative**—definitive, absolute, final authority
3. **Sufficient**—all we need for salvation and for godly living

**III. THE CONCLUSION** (13-14)—what he found

**A. The Consideration of Evidence**

1. **Hear it all.** Don't gloss over anything.
2. **Make a conclusion.** The answer will *guide the way you live*.

**B. The Whole Duty of Man**

1. **Fear God** (Gen 31:42, 53)—attitude; respect, reverence, holy dread of offending
  - a. **Conscience** (Ex 1:17; 2 Chr 19:5-11; Neh 5:9; Job 1:1; 2:3, Acts 5)—based on God's character, morality based on God's Law
  - b. **Confidence** (Ps 76:7 & 115:11; Isa 57:11)—based on God's power
2. **Keep His Commands**—action flows from attitude, obedience

**C. The Judgment of God**—what gives life meaning

1. **Every Deed** (Jer 32:19; Mat 12:36)—what you have done
2. **Every Hidden Thing** (Heb 4:12-13;)—hidden deeds, thoughts intents
3. **Both Good and Evil**—
  - a. **Punishment** (Lev 26:14-39; Ps 94:1-2, 10, 22-23)
  - b. **Reward** (Mat 5:12; 6:3-4, 17-18; 10:41-42; Lk 14:14; 1 Pet 5:4; Rev 22:12)

**LISTEN TO “Uninvited” (Mandisa, from *The Story*)**

<https://youtu.be/iZvZWUZFevI>