

ETERNAL INVESTMENTS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—March 31st, 2024

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8

(ESV)

*[1] Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.*

*[2] Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.*

*[3] If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.*

*[4] He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.*

*[5] As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child,
so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.*

[6] In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

[7] Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

[8] So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

[9] Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

[10] Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

[1] Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; [2] before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, [3] in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, [4] and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—[5] they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—[6] before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, [7] and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. [8] Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

INTRODUCTION

The only investment that we can make today that will give us assurance of eternal life is faith in Christ.

2 Timothy 1:12...*for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.*

REVIEW

INVEST YOUR LIFE IN THE THING OF TODAY

Good works are the wise application of our time, our resources, and opportunities.

Be resourceful with what the Lord has entrusted you.

Life is uncertain, but uncertainty cannot lead us to inaction.

Providence—the God who is in control, also orchestrates all things for the good of his people.

“So they left that goodly and pleasant city of Leyden, which had been their resting-place for above eleven years, but they knew that they were pilgrims and strangers here below, and looked not much on these things, but lifted up their eyes to Heaven, their dearest country, where God hath prepared for them a city, and therein quieted their spirits.”—**William Bradford**

“Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing, and gives being to all things that are; and, as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many...”—**William Bradford**

INVEST YOUR LIFE WISELY FOR ETERNITY

There are investments that we can make today that will produce eternal fruit.

Matthew 6:19—*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal...”*

Rejoice

Ecclesiastes 3:12–13—*[12] I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; [13] also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God’s gift to man.*

Remember

Hebrews 9:27—*[27] And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...*