

ENJOY LIFE NOW BEFORE ...
(Ecclesiastes 11:7 - 12:7)

- You know you are getting old when ...
- **The PROLOGUE (1:1-3)**
- **The DISCOURSES (1:4-12:12)**
 - a. The Secret of Pleasure in Life (1:4-2:26)
 - b. The Secret of Providence in Life (3:1-5:20)
 - c. The Secret of Prosperity in Life (6:1-8:15)
 - d. The Secret of Perseverance in Life (8:16-12:12)
- **The EPILOGUE (12:13-14)**

A. LIFE Can Be SWEET So ENJOY IT While You Can. (11:7-10)

1. **The *goad*: Yet REMEMBER what is coming in time (11:7-8):** “Light is sweet {referring to the good & enjoyable things in life}; how pleasant to see a new day dawning. But if a man lives many years {which isn’t guaranteed} And rejoices in them all {lives generally a happy life} Yet let him _____ {recall key truths or upcoming events to respond wisely in the meantime} **the days of darkness** {the difficulties of old age and even death which are coming}, **For they will be many** {difficult days ahead}. **All that is coming is** _____ {transitory and without lasting value from a human viewpoint apart from relating to the Lord}. Compare with Psalm 90:10, 12.
2. **The *tent-stake*: So REJOICE in your youth but remember what is coming in eternity.(11:9)**
“_____ O young man, _____, And let your heart cheer you {by happiness without guilt} in the days of your _____; _____ in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But _____ that for all these {things; what you think and do} _____ will bring you into judgment {His divine evaluation upon death}.” Consider 2 Cor. 5:9 -10; 1 Cor. 4:1-5.
3. **The *practical application*: Therefore REMOVE the obstacles hindering the enjoyment of life now. (11:10)** “Therefore _____ {self-inflicted} from your heart, And _____ from your flesh, For childhood and youth are _____” {transitory and empty, without lasting purpose & value from a HVP, apart from responding to the Lord.} Consider Philippians 4:4-10; Romans 7 & 8.

B. LIFE Will Be More STRESSFUL the OLDER You Get So REDEEM the Time NOW. (12:1-7)

1. **What?** _____ - is an imperative command meaning to remember or recall information, truths, or events with a focus on responding in a wise manner in light of them.
2. **When?** _____ - in the moment; don’t wait till later.
3. **Who?** _____ - as Solomon assumes both the recognition of God as Creator but also the Creator – creature distinction. Remember the theme of Ecclesiastes.
4. **When?** “_____ the days of your _____, _____ the difficult days come {days of adversity, pain, suffering, many challenges of old age}, and {before} the days draw near when you say, "I have {have; find} _____ {pleasure; delight} in them {old age}.”

5. **What will getting old entail? (12:2-5a)** There is much disagreement about what the following verses refer to *generally* {one's funeral, a coming storm & the destruction of one's house, or analogous to mental or bodily decline}, as well as *specifically*. I think the bodily decline view is the most plausible as your body is likened to a house that decays and declines {Walter Kaiser view}

- a. _____ - **While the sun and the light {of} the moon and the stars
Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return {dissipate} after the rain; (12:2)**
- b. _____ - **In the day when the keepers of the house tremble (12:3a)**
- c. _____ - **And the strong men bow down; (12:3b)**
- d. _____ - **When the grinders cease because they are few, (12:3c)**
- e. _____ - **those that look through the windows grow dim (12:3d)**
- f. _____ - **When the doors are shut in the streets, (12:4a)**
- g. _____ - **And the sound of grinding is low; (12:4b)**
- h. _____ - **When one rises up at the sound of a bird, (12:4c)**
- i. _____ - **And all the daughters of music are brought low; (12:4d)**
- j. _____ - **they are afraid of height & of terrors in the way; (12:5a)**
- k. _____ - **When the almond tree blossoms, (12:5b)**
- l. _____ - **The grasshopper is a burden, (12:5c)**
- m. _____ - **And desire fails. (12:5d)**
- n. _____ - **For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go
about the streets. (12:5e)**
- o. _____ - **before the silver cord is loosed, (12:6a)**
- p. _____ - **Or the golden bowl is broken, (12:6b)**
- q. _____ - **Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, (12:6c)**
- r. _____ - **Or the wheel broken at the well. (12:6d)**

6. **Then what will happen? Then the dust {your physical body} will return to the _____ as it was,
And the spirit {spirit of life breath} will return to _____ who gave it. (12:7)**

7. **What can you learn from this?**

- a. God wants you to _____ life, especially in your _____, but it is only enjoyed by
being rightly related to Him on _____ terms, not yours.
- b. God wants you to _____ as life will become more
difficult for you in the future.
- c. God wants you to _____ that there will be a _____ by Him.