

**Ecclesiastes 12: 1 – “The Young Remembering God” Message # 79
in the Series – “Remember Your Creator”, A Bible Study conducted by
Pastor Paul Rendall on September 19th, 2012, at the Rendall Home.**

The memory of many people is a very uncertain thing. Sometimes we can remember certain truths and certain experiences very well, and sometimes even those same experiences which were so clear to us a few days before, are now something which we have to strain our minds to be able to remember them. Why is it that we are so forgetful? Why can't memory be crystal clear and we be able to draw it up repeatedly and quickly to our minds? I think that the answer to that question is two-fold. It is because of Adam's sin in the beginning; that is that sin in our nature affects our memory, and it is also because God would have us to see how dependent we are upon Him. There may be many other reasons, at any given time why we cannot remember things, but those are two main and basis ones. Now our text says that we should remember God in the days of our youth, because some day we will grow old, if we haven't already made it there. These verses are specifically addressed to youth, but they may easily be applied to all ages of people who can understand them. Therefore, let us think together about what the young person should remember about God, and how they should remember Him. 3 things to remember:

1st – Remember that God the Creator made you for Himself.

The first thing that should be remembered is that God is your Creator. The young person especially, but really all people, are to remember that God is their Creator. He is the one who has made the young man and not he himself. This ought to be especially apparent to young people who have Christian parents who have brought them to church. Turn over with me to Psalm 100. “Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!” “Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.” “Know that the Lord, He is God.” “It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.” “Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.” “For the Lord is good, His mercy everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” You can see here that what God is looking for from a young person is that they would see Him as the One who has made him. But the reason that he has made him, is so that he would come and worship Him. All people were created by God in order to worship and serve Him. All lands and all peoples are to make a joyful shout to Him and serve Him with gladness. They are to come before His presence with singing. This means that you should not only worship Him personally in private, but you should more especially see that God would have you to come to church and learn of Him, and give to him your praise, young person. When you come to church, you are remembering that there is a God who created you and is expecting you to learn to worship Him regularly and not to forget or neglect that worship. Let me ask whether are you observing

the 4th commandment of the 10 commandments? Are you remembering the Sabbath Day, the Christian Sabbath Day, to keep it holy? This is something which God would have you to learn in your youth. Is there anything more important for you to do on Sunday than praising God and pursuing the knowledge of God? If there is something more important to you, on that Day, then you are not remembering God rightly, Sunday by Sunday. Oh, may you learn it early. God made you for Himself.

Sometimes I fear that some young people only come to church because they are forced to come by their parents. It is, of course, the duty of godly parents to bring their children to church and not give them the option of staying home or doing something else. Look over at Proverbs 22: 6. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” This verse shows us that if the child is to “remember”, there has to have been something placed there in his young mind by his Dad and Mom. But young person, you should understand that both of your parents, if they know the Lord and are walking with the Lord, and God Himself; desire to have your heart freely given to them, in order that you might be taught the way of the Lord. They want very much for you to come to church on your own volition. Look over, then, at Proverbs 23: 22-26. “Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.” “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.” “The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him.” “Let your father and mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice.” “My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.” Young person, here is the truth of the matter. Your father and mother, if they are godly, know that they did not create you. God did. He was the One who formed you in your mother’s womb. He was the One who gave you the parents that you have. And if they know the Lord, then they want the very best for you. The very best is that you remember God your Creator in the days of your youth. Remember what your parents have taught you about God, from the Bible, and about what He expects. Remember also that true religion is a matter of the heart. It is a matter of having your heart changed away from what you are in Adam, to have your heart early directed into the ways of truth and right thinking and doing. Look over at Proverbs 23: 15-18 – “My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice—indeed, I myself; yes, my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak right things.” “Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; for surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.” He goes on to make some very practical applications of how a young man should choose his friends wisely and not run with gluttons and wine-drinkers; people who would forget God in their thoughts and in their behavior.

Secondly – Remember that it is only through Christ’s grace that you will remember God when you are young.

The Original Hebrew of this verse reads, “Remember your Creators (Plural) in the days of your youth”. In other words, remember not only that God has made you, but also remember that Christ was the One through whom all things were made. And you should then realize that finding Him is the only way to glorify God in the days of your youth. The way that a young man will learn to live, walking in righteous paths, and walking in the ways of truth according to the Bible, will be if he will early seek Christ who is wisdom personified. See how He is spoken of in Proverbs Chapter 8, verses 12-16. “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion.” “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.” “Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength.” “By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice.” “By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth.” “I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.” You can see here that wisdom is not simply a principle to live by; it is a person who has it intrinsically in Himself. That person, we find in the New Testament Scriptures, is Jesus Christ our Lord. It is the grace of Christ which He will give to you, as a young man, that will enable you to be prudent, full of Biblical knowledge, and to use discretion, (the right way to go about to do things to God’s glory, with your life). It says here that He does this for kings, rulers, princes, nobles, and all the judges of the earth when they seek him. He loves people who love Him; those who will diligently seek Him. Why won’t you ask Him to do this for you? Those last words, “diligently seek me”, have been translated in the King James, “early seek me”. It is He who will give grace to the heart of the young, to reverence the Lord and to hate evil.

Christ also gives the true humility, and the good and right counsel, on how a young man should live. In 1st Peter 5: 5 it says, “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.” “Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” I am saying that it is Christ who gives the true humility necessary for a young man to avoid using perverse or foolish speech. He is the Wonderful Counselor who gives understanding of right ways for him to think and to live by, so that a young man can be strong in his heart and strong in his life to do the right things with his strength and his time as he begins to learn more about what God would have him to do in particular. Those who seek Christ early in life shall find that He will indeed give them the true spiritual riches and wisdom. Look over at Colossians Chapter 2, verse 1. “For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Now look also at verse 8. “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition

of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

You see, there can be a problem, dear young person, with going to college and learning many earthly “truths” from men who do not know God and who do not know or believe in the Bible. There is nothing wrong with being taught the arts and sciences and learning useful knowledge to be able to pursue a career, so that you might make money to support yourself and your family. But you need to be careful. Because it is possible that you might actually come to believe the philosophies of men; that of only pursuing worldly, earthly goals. This kind of pursuit, that of earthly knowledge, and men’s wisdom, may cheat you out of early coming to see and believe that God Himself, through Jesus Christ our Lord, is the source of all true and lasting wisdom and knowledge. Worldly wisdom and philosophies of men will not avail in your living your life as you should, to God’s glory. They may establish you in popularity and may help you in obtaining earthly riches, but you may miss out on God’s better things which are found when you seek Him diligently; when you remember your Creator in the days of your youth. God is the One who made you. Christ is the only One who can redeem you and give you a new heart to pursue wisdom which leads to godliness. Therefore, you should seek Him early, and as it can also be translated, seek Him earnestly.

Then 3rdly – You should remember God before the difficult days come.

Solomon means that you should remember God before you get old; too old to be able to serve Him as you ought to be, all of your days. The word difficult is translated “evil” in the King James. “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come.” Old age is the time of many difficulties. There are many difficulties related to the body, as we shall see the next time that we are together around this Scripture. It is the time when years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them.” It is not as though an older person who is godly does not have many pleasures in their older years. You remember that Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in years when Isaac was born. They called him “laughter” because God had given them this pleasure even in their old age. But turn to Psalm 71, verses 17 and 18. “O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works.” “Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.” You can see here that there are tremendous advantages to remembering God when you are young. The psalmist says that he was taught from his youth by God Himself. God Himself showed him the path of life and the way to live to His glory. He says, “To this day, I declare Your wondrous works”. Let me ask in closing if this is what you do? If that is what you have done, beginning in your youth, you have every right to pray and ask as the psalmist did here: “Now also when I am old and grey-headed, O God, do not forsake me” (that is do not let me die) “until I declare Your strength to

this generation, and Your power to all who will come.” This is what you are able to do when you have remembered God your Creator in the days of your youth. You are still able to pray and ask that God would declare His strength through you, to this generation, so that they will see that your life, both physical and spiritual, has been upheld by God and lived to God. I trust that this is what we all want to do who are following God according to His blessed Word.