

Dave Gustavsen – The Pursuit of Happiness: **THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER**

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:14

Sermon Based Questions – August 30, 2015

Introduction:

1. Solomon reminds us throughout Ecclesiastes to enjoy what God has given us. What are some everyday things that you enjoy but often overlook?
2. Is there something that would bring you joy, but you've been putting it off until something else is done first?

Understanding:

3. What does Solomon mean by the "days of darkness" in Ecclesiastes 11:8? Why does he encourage us to remember them?
4. Compare Ecclesiastes 11:9 with Psalm 119:9. How do these verses encourage young people to behave? How do you reconcile these two verses?
5. What are some things that can "block" us from enjoying our lives? See Ecclesiastes 11:10.
6. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1, and compare this with Deuteronomy 8:10, 17-18. What does it mean to **remember** God?
7. What are some of the illustrations used to describe growing old and feeble in Ecclesiastes 12:3-5?
8. To what does Solomon compare the words of the wise, in verse 12:11? What were the three "goads" that Pastor Dave mentioned in the sermon? (Hint: the first one was "Am I postponing joy?")
9. What influences your concept of God more: the culture around us, or the example that Jesus showed us? If we only listened to our culture, what would our concept of God be? Read John 1:14. How did God show us Himself in Jesus?
10. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. How does Solomon conclude this "pursuit of happiness"? What does it mean to fear God? Why does he reach this conclusion (v.14)?

Application:

11. This week, focus on the good gifts that God has given you, and enjoy them!
12. Do you think God will just excuse anything that you do? What does that say about your fear of Him? Take some time this week to think about the fear, awe and reverence that God deserves from us.