

12. Positive Thinking

In his return journey to God, Solomon has found that wisdom and wise living are the surest way to find contentment and avoid wasting one's short lifespan.

ECCLESIASTES 11:1-12:14

Solomon supports the idea that God wants us to be blessed, joyful, and optimistic for our lives.

Intro - In the last chapters, Solomon's journal turns much more optimistic.

Solomon exhorts a new mindset of positive thinking.

I. Think Positive 11:1-6

Instead of Defense, think offense vs. 1

Instead of always looking for ways to protect yourself, try releasing yourself to your full potential. Not being reckless and foolish, however becoming adventurous for God always bears a return.

Instead of Hording, try giving vs. 2

The more you give the more you get. Savings/Hoarding at the expense of charity and doing may build money but will not bring peace and joy.

Instead of Watching, try doing vs. 3-4

It is always better to focus on things you can change or exploit for good. Jump into life, just don't sit there.

Instead of Doubting, try trusting vs. 5-6

We cannot know all variables somewhere along the way we need to have faith and trust in God. We should always try and multiple efforts, because we don't know which will succeed.

II. Don't Procrastinate

11:7-12:1

Different kinds of procrastinators.

Solomon says that joy and satisfaction are linked to what we have with God not what we possess materially.

1. God permits us to enjoy life now vs. 7-8a

Light and Sun are images of God's Love and Protection Ps. 27:1. God's blessings are daily and He encourages us to recognize and enjoy them daily.

2. Take advantage of your blessings now vs. 9a

Today too many youth are angry, depressed, and anxious. This is not God's design. The blessings of youth should be the foundation to a healthy outlook on life.

3. There are no guarantees vs. 8b-9b-10

Do not put off your happiness for a future time that may not come, but do that within God's will because you will be judged.

4. The essential ingredient for happiness is a relationship with God vs. 12:1

Happiness/Blessedness is achieved by how much of God's will is achieved in your life. Never stop considering the blessings of the day. Less focus on selves and things, more focus and reliance on God for daily direction and needs.

III. Grow old with Grace

vs. 12:2-8

There is no avoiding getting old.

1. Accept the obvious vs. 2-5

Acceptance brings peace, allowing the ability to enjoy life without the stress of maintain an image of youth that is quickly passing.

2. Prepare for the obvious vs. 6-7

It is an act of mercy that God allows us to deteriorate slowly so we have the time to become aware of our mortality and be prepared for it. Age allows us the wisdom of change our clue to prepare.

3. Acknowledge the obvious vs. 8-14

Knowledge and wisdom alone do not guarantee happiness. Solomon humbles himself and acknowledges that obedience and devotion to God give life its potential for joy and meaning.

Summary

In the end, Solomon says that life is short and death is sure/certain.

However, for the one who seeks God and obeys Him, there are 3 promises:

1. There is satisfaction in each day
If only we look for and acknowledge it.

2. There is peace regardless of age or position
Through faith in God.

3. There is hope when life is over
Heaven for the faithful.

Take to heart this wise advice