
For God will bring every deed into judgement, with every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

I. Good Advice, Especially to the Young (vv.1-8)

- a. To "remember" means more than to "think about God". It means "pay attention with the intent to obey." A supportive text would be Matthew 6:33, *seek you first the kingdom of God and...*
- b. It is easy to neglect the Lord in our youth because all the enjoyments and distractions. The sky is bright and we think we will live forever.
- c. Verses 3-7 provide a description of aging and death.
- d. Life is meaningless without God, therefore, live for something that lasts.

II. The Preacher's Mission (vv.9-10)

- a. The preacher must impart knowledge to the people (v.9). Not just any knowledge but the wisdom of God. The preacher has no clear message unless it comes from the Holy Scriptures.
- b. Because the preachers is wise, they should seek wisdom for the purpose of giving wisdom.
- c. Good preaching always involves teaching just as good teaching will always have an element of preaching. *Expository* preaching explains the text.
- d. How a preacher delivers the knowledge of God's Word is important. Here are three essentials:
 1. *He pondered or weighed carefully* what he wrote and said. (v.9)
 2. *He sought out or explored* – he dug deep into the content he would present.
 3. *He set in order or arranged many proverbs* – he considered how to deliver the revelation he attained.
- e. Wise preachers will work hard to find the right words as they feed the flock under their protection.
- f. The phrase "words of delight" suggests that beautiful truth should be wrapped in an attractive style. *Preaching should not make the Bible boring. *Dullness* is a danger to the truth.
- g. Wise words are like goads (prods) because they encourage right movement, promote reflection and action, restrain from error. If they hurt and sting, the pain is helpful, for good and not for evil.

III. The One Shepherd (vv.11-14)

- a. The faithful preacher must be a faithful expositor, revealing God's truth always pointing people to Jesus, the *One Shepherd*. (v.11)
- b. The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the path of sinners, and the happiness of believers. We read the Bible to be wise, believe it to be saved, and practice it to be holy. God's Word is about the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
- c. To "fear God" (v.13) means to put God (His authority, power, wisdom) in His proper place and us in our proper place (our fears, hopes, dreams).

IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. Ecclesiastes ends with these words, For God will bring every deed into judgement, with every secret thing, whether good or evil (v.14). The bad news is that humanity is under condemnation.
- b. The good news is Christ is on the scene and all those who believe in Him have the opportunity to experience the abundant life now and later in eternity.
- c. Beloved, because of Christ we can recover and pursue God's design for our lives and live as we are meant to live. Let us take the advice of the *Preacher* let us live for something that lasts!