

Ecclesiastes 11:7-10

Enjoy the present, look forward to the future

Reminder of our imminent death and meeting God—11:7-12:7

Removing Discouragements to God's Plan—8:16-12:14

- 1) Young people should realize it is good to be alive—11:7-8
 - a) ⁷ *Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.*
 - i) Young people tend to think they will enjoy life when:
 - (1) They have the things they've always wanted
 - (2) They have the other person they've always wanted
 - (3) They have achieved their goals and realized their dreams
 - ii) Depression and suicide rates are high among young people
 - b) Why? ⁸ *For if a man lives many years,*
 - i) *let him rejoice in them all;*
 - ii) *and let him remember the days of darkness* (difficult days, old age, the grave),
 - (1) *for they will be many.*
 - c) *All that comes is illusory.*
- 2) Young people should enjoy life and keep perspective—11:9
 - a) Enjoy life—⁹ *Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth.*
 - b) Do what you enjoy and what you know is right—*Walk in the ways of your heart and in the sight of your eyes*, (cf. 3:12-13)
 - c) Remember God will evaluate your life by His standards—but *know that for all these things God will bring you into the judgment.* (cf. 12:14)
- 3) Young people should enjoy life while they are young—11:10
 - a) Two commands to not focus on the negatives of life
 - i) Remove unnecessary stress—¹⁰ *Remove vexation from your heart,*
 - ii) Remove unnecessary self-deprivation—and *put away pain from your body,*
 - b) Why? Because life is short—*for youth and the prime of life* (lit. “blackness”, most like a reference to the color of one's hair in youth) *are illusory.*