

Ecclesiastes 12:8-14
Refrain # 4: Fear God with Obedience
Removing Discouragements to God's Plan—8:16-12:14

- 1) Restating his opening premise—12:8 ⁸ *“Most transitory,” says the Preacher, “all is transitory.”* (cf. 1:2)
- 2) Credibility of King Solomon's work—12:9-10
 - a) Wise—⁹ *In addition to the Preacher being wise,*
 - b) Knowledgeable—*he also taught the people knowledge;*
 - c) Careful—*and he weighed, and studied and arranged many proverbs.* (cf. 1st Kings 4:32; Proverbs)
 - d) Pleasant—¹⁰ *The Preacher sought to find delightful words*
 - e) Dependable—*and he accurately wrote words of truth.*
- 3) Reminders to his son—12:11-12
 - a) Pay attention to what father Solomon has written—12:11
 - i) Stimulating—¹¹ *The words of the wise are like goads,*
 - ii) Reliable—*and the collected sayings are like firmly fixed nails;*
 - iii) Divine authorship—*they are given by one Shepherd* (i.e. God; Psalm 23; 80:1).
 - b) Don't spend too much time away from the real world—12:12 ¹² *And beyond this, my son, be warned: of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearying to the body.*
- 4) God's judgment of His image-bearers—12:13-14 ¹³ *The conclusion of the matter, when all has been heard:*
 - a) What?
 - i) fear God (emphatic)
 - (1) Fearing God involves: trusting God (Psalm 115:11), experiencing God's forgiveness (Psalm 130:4), taking pleasure in God's Word (Psalm 112:1), obeying God's Word (Psalm 119:63), hating evil (Proverbs 8:13), and anticipating God's loyal love (Psalm 147:11).
 - ii) and keep His commandments (emphatic),
 - b) Why?
 - i) We are responsible to God—*because this is the whole of man.*
 - (1) This is the essence of God's design for people. These commands apply to all people of all time. This is the “gain” referred to in 1:3.
 - (2) “Humanity sought to be like God in disobeying him, but instead they lost the one thing that made them truly human.” (Garret)
 - ii) Everything matters—12:14 ¹⁴ *For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good or evil.* (cf. 11:9)
 - (1) Believers—2nd Corinthians 5:10
 - (a) Specifically pastors—1st Corinthians 3:10-15
 - (2) Unbelievers—Revelation 20:11-15
 - c) Your lifestyle reveals what and whom you worship. God's evaluation of you is the final word.