

“Remember Your Creator”

Ecc1. 12:1-5

August 30, 2020

Ecc1 12:1-5

1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them";

2 before the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are darkened, and clouds return after the rain;

3 in the day that the watchmen of the house tremble, and mighty men stoop, the grinding ones stand idle because they are few, and those who look through windows grow dim;

4 and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one will arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of song will sing softly.

5 Furthermore, men are afraid of a high place and of terrors on the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags himself along, and the caperberry is ineffective. For man goes to his eternal home while mourners go about in the street.

1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them";

“remember” - נִכְרַח - zawkar – to call up, to put in remembrance, to memorialize, to create a marker.

- We all live our lives with things we need to remember- birthdays, anniversaries, things we need to buy at the grocery store, meetings we are supposed to attend, etc.

- **“remember” = obey.**

- “To act decisively on behalf of God. It is to listen, take seriously and act on what God says.”

Ps 137:6

6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth

If I do not remember you,

“Creator” – plural.

- **Sabbath to remember.** The Sabbath/Sunday is to remind us that God is Creator. It is a time to reflect on who God is and who we are. Gen. 1

Ecc1 11:9-10

9 Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.

10 So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.

5 things youth need to remember about their Creator:

1. The Creator is eternal, unique, and distinct. He is not a part of creation.

2. The Creator is the first cause of all that is created.

- There is no time when God did not exist. A first cause is eternal.
- However there was a period when we had no being.
- Had we always been in existence we could have had no Creator.
- But we have a Creator, and therefore did not make ourselves.
- No being can make itself, as that would suppose it acted prior to its existence.

3. The Creator has exclusive rights and authority over all of His creation. We are not our own; we have no right to ourselves.

4. The Creator alone determines my existence. If He created me He can dispose of me.

5. The Creator therefore logically and rationally deserves from me all of my life. No part of my life is excluded –childhood, youth, adulthood, seniors.

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- Notice "before". We are to, "remember" before something takes place.
- "evil" - רָע - ra - adversity, affliction, distress, bad, evil.
- As life goes on it will be more difficult to do the same things, to accomplish what you set out to do.
- Solomon is saying, "Take advantage of your youth and the strength you have and accomplish much for your Creator, because in a shorter time than you think you will not have the strength to do it."

Leftovers are such humble things,
We would not serve to a guest,
And yet we serve them to our Lord
Who deserves the very best.

We give to Him leftover time,
Stray minutes here and there.
Leftover cash we give to Him,
Such few coins as we can spare.

We give our youth unto the world,
To hatred, lust and strife;
Then in declining years we give
To him the remnant of our life.

- Author Unknown

Sign on the Trans-Alaska Highway that says -

**"Choose your rut carefully;
you'll be in it for the next 200 miles!"**

Eccl 12:1-6

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- 3 in the day that the watchmen of the house tremble, and mighty men stoop, the grinding ones stand idle because they are few, and those who look through windows grow dim;
- 4 and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one will arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of song will sing softly.
- 5 Furthermore, men are afraid of a high place and of terrors on the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags himself along, and the caperberry is ineffective. For man goes to his eternal home while mourners go about in the street.

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- In 12:2-5, Solomon describes the advance of old age in the imagery of a decaying house. "This Old House".



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- In 12:2-7, Solomon describes the advance of old age in the imagery of a decaying house. "This Old House."
- Solomon is not saying that all of these things happen to everybody.
- **"before"** – Remember your Creator.
- **"darkened"** - begins with the mental faculties, the mind.
- Described in terms of light – notice it goes from bright to dim.
- This is the fading of the mental powers of an individual as they grow older.
- Memory, reasoning power, creativity.
- There are three things that indicate the onset of old age: the first is losing your memory, and I can't remember the other two!
- As someone has well said, "Just about the time your face clears up, your mind begins to go!"
- clouds – rain – clouds. A reference to returning to a previous condition.
- As a child, one's life revolves around three simple things: eating, sleeping, and going to the bathroom. When one gets old that same cycle returns again.

"Gentlemen, 'As now, so then'. Don't tell me, 'When I get the money and I get the time, then....' No! You do it now, right now, and start now. Do it while you can, because old age is on its way."

- Howard Hendricks

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"watchmen of the house" – the arms and legs. They take care of the body. They begin to tremble and lose strength. "This is when your knees buckle but your belt won't!"

"mighty men stoop" – back begins to slump. You know you are aging when your back goes out more than you do!

"grinding ones stand idle" – loss of teeth due to tooth decay. Loss of ability to chew.

"those who look through windows grow dim" – eyes, that because of macular degeneration or cataracts or other eye problems can't see clearly anymore. Need more light.

"Whatever you may look like, marry a man your own age – as your beauty fades, so will his eyesight."

4 **and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one will arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of song will sing softly.**

"and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low" – mouth - must be kept shut when chewing because lack of teeth.

"and one will arise at the sound of the bird" - unable to sleep soundly. We struggle with sleeping.

"and all the daughters of song will sing softly" - ears – loss of hearing.

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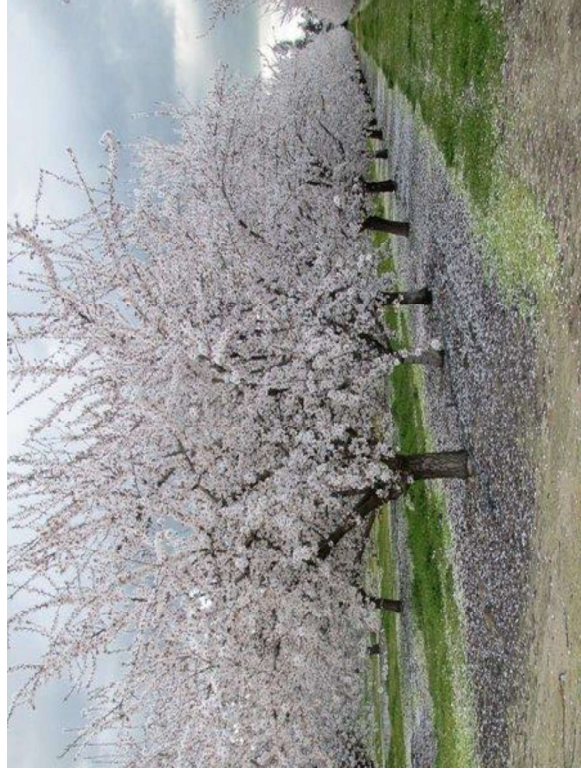
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“men are afraid of a high place” - become more fearful of heights – stairs, ladders.

“terrors on the road” - afraid of traffic, travel.

“almond tree blossoms” the hair, which turns white as old age approaches.

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“the grasshopper drags himself along” Has lost his spring.

“caperberry is ineffective” – an aphrodisiac to increase desire. Now there is a decrease in the appetites of life (food and sex).



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“For man goes to his eternal home while mourners go about in the street.” - man dies and life goes on.

2 Cor 5:1-5

- 1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
- 2 For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,
- 3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.
- 4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.
- 5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.
- 6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord —
- 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight —
- 8 we are of good courage. I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.
- 9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.
- 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Cor 4:16

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.