

The Grand Conclusion

Introduction:

- A. [The conclusion of “The Un-wasted Life”]
- B. [Movies Trilogies, Season Finales, Closing Chapters – They point to what the story is all about]
- C. In life there has been an endless pursuit for the meaning of life:
 - a. From philosophers to common man...
 - b. Answers to questions like “*why am I here? What is my purpose?*”
- D. Today we are going to let Solomon help us with that pursuit...
- E. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- F. “*We must join Solomon in realizing the grand conclusion of life.*”
- G. Solomon back over all that he had examined...
 - a. Over all the pleasures & uncertainties...
 - b. And he gives us the “conclusion of the whole matter”
- H. In essence he is saying here is what life is really meant for:
 - a. “*for this is man’s all*” (13c)
 - b. “*the whole duty of man*” – KJV
 - c. He is saying “*What I’m telling you is to make you whole and applies to all mankind.*”
- I. 2 Questions:
 - I. What makes us whole? – A relationship with God (13)
 - a. We need a relationship that takes God seriously.
 - i. “*fear God*”
 - 1. This not a call for be scared...
 - 2. We are called to reverence, awe, respect God...
 - 3. Solomon knew that importance of fearing God really was:
 - 4. “*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*” – Prov. 9:10
 - 5. “*The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.*” – Prov. 10:27
 - 6. “*In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.*” – Prov. 14:26-27
 - ii. We are to give God His proper place in your life.
 - 1. After all He created us to glorify Him!
 - 2. Man may deny God, ignore God, or even hate God...
 - 3. But man will never be whole without God!
 - 4. With God we find our purpose and direction in life.
 - 5. [“*The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else; whereas, if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.*” – Oswald Chambers]
 - 6. “*Make the LORD of Heaven’s Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble.*” – Is. 8:13 NLT
 - 7. True respect for God comes through faith.
 - 8. “*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*” – Heb. 11:6 NIV
- ii. We need a relationship that does what God says.
 - i. “*keep His commandments*”
 - 1. We are to obey what He says to us.
 - 2. Not just the commandments, but all that God instructs us to do.
 - 3. [“*In Ecclesiastes, Solomon shows us that we should enjoy life, but this does not exempt us from obeying God’s commandments. We should search for purpose and meaning in life, but they cannot be found in human endeavors. We should acknowledge the evil, foolishness, and injustice in life, yet maintain a positive attitude and strong faith in God.*” – Life Application Notes]
 - 4. This was the message of the O.T.
 - 5. “*in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and*

multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.” – Deut. 30:16

6. This is the message of Jesus today!
 7. *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* – Jn. 14:15
- ii. Fear and obedience are to inseparable factors in our relationship with God.
1. When we fear God our desires conform to doing what He desires of us.
 2. We are willing to respond to God without hesitation.
 3. [***“When all else fails, read the instructions”***]
 4. Obedience to God reflects our true standing with God
 5. *“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”* – 1 Jn. 2:3-4
 6. Life without God is truly meaningless and full of vanity!

“The next question...”

II. Why must we fear and obey God? – We will be held accountable (14)

- a. Our actions will be judged.
- i. All will stand before the Judge.
 1. Solomon had come to grips with this fact (3:17, 11:9)
 2. The saved will face a judgment seat:
 - a. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”* – 2 Cor. 5:10
 - b. How we lived as Christians will be weighed out
 3. The unsaved will face the white throne judgment:

- a. *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”* – Rev. 20:11-15

b. No one will be overlooked!

4. Solomon is say, don’t ignore your relationship with God, because it could cost you eternity!
- ii. Remember, what we do will be examined.
1. The saved will be judged on our service to Him
 2. Thus we should live with this reality on our hearts.
 3. For the lost, their works will prove their guilt...
 4. Because their names are not in the book of life.
 5. [**works – Jesus = deserter**]
 6. The Lord will come *“to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”* – Jude 1:15

- b. Our secrets will be revealed.
 - i. Even the secret intents of our hearts will be revealed.
 - 1. Good things done for the wrong intent will be revealed...
 - 2. Sins done in privacy will be exposed.
 - 3. For our omniscient God know our hearts!
 - 4. *“in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”* – Rom. 2:16
 - 5. *“So don’t make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.”* – 1 Cor. 4:5 NLT
 - 6. This is why we must keep even secret actions in check!
 - 7. [***“Three Truths About Sin: 1. Sin will take you farther that you want to go. 2. Sin will keep you longer than you want to say. 3. Sin will cost you more than you want to pay.”*** – Johnny Hunt]
 - ii. No longer will people be able to say life is unfair.
 - 1. *“whether good or bad”*
 - 2. All the unjust actions will be revealed
 - 3. All unrewarded acts of kindness and obedience will be recognized.
 - 4. God & not death is the Great Equalizer!
 - 5. For all will stand before Him!
 - 6. *“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom”* – 2 Tim. 4:1

Conclusion

- A. Have you embraced the meaning of life?
- B. Are you ready for the day of judgment?
 - a. [***“The joys of the present depend on the security of the future.”*** – Warren Wiersbe]
 - b. *“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”* – 1 Jn. 5:12