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Ecclesiastes 11 9-10 meaning

Ecclesiastes 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. Message: Joy and Judgment Time: The Book of Ecclesiastes does not directly identify its author. The conventional belief is that the author is indeed Solomon. The book was likely written towards the end of Solomon's reign, approximately 935 B.C. It is a book of perspective whereby the speaker reveals the depression that inevitably results from seeking happiness in worldly things. Most every form of worldly pleasure is explored by the Preacher, and none of it gives him a sense of meaning. He accepts that life is brief and ultimately worthless without God and advises the reader to focus on an eternal God instead of temporary pleasure. What the Lord is Saying: I don't know what it is about these Spring months of the year, but I notice my time in the Word really seems to diminish as compared to the Fall and Winter months. I continue to walk through chapter 11 of Ecclesiastes. Verses 1 and 2 of chapter 11 spoke of serving and giving our all to serve. But we can't secure ourselves from zero failures. We must remember God is in control. We can trust God for outcomes. We are not all-knowing creatures, we come to God with humility anchored in the fact that He knows it all. And - rejoice in the years of life that I have and do not focus on the years of life after the grave. The days of darkness, as in the days of life, will be many. Both type of days are futile or unpredictable. In review: 1. Do my best 2. Life is unpredictable 3. God knows it all, not man. 4. Rejoice in the years of life that I have These are the themes I have seen thus far. Now as I look at verse 9 and 10, I see joy and judgment. First Glance To the young man, as you age and grow - rejoice. Allow your heart to be pleasant, especially as you prepare to be a man. Follow the impulses of your heart and desires of your eyes, yet know that God will judge you for your actions. Now, that is an odd sort of verse there. Be pleasant; follow the impulses of your heart. Follow the desires of your eyes. Yet, know God will judge you for your actions. Remove grief and anger, put away pain. Childhood and old age are fleeting (passing swiftly). Clarification Solomon speaks to young man, as I have seen. Young men are the most impressionable people. Plus, they are hit with the greatest of temptations in life. I am dealing with that right now, as I watch my youngest son, Derek, in those years. He is 16. My oldest retreated more to his world, of computers, but I know still struggled with different demons. He has such a strong inclination toward things that are out there, different from mom and dad, and is thus, so against restraint and counsel. This is why these words are so important, because of the position the young man is in. But, I am a little vexed by these words. The preacher states be of good cheer, follow your heart, follow the desires of your eyes - but know this - God will bring you to judgment for all these things. Again, backing up, looking at the context, I see words that encourage enjoyment in each day. Verse 8 - if a man should live many years, let him rejoice in them all. But he also says in verse 6 - Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening. Enjoy, but work hard. The reality is that days of darkness, for they will be many. How does this all fit together? Rejoice in your days; work hard; do not be idle; there will be days of darkness, yet follow your heart realizing you will be judged. Again, I think the subject matter is a little vexing and perhaps intended to be a little puzzling. The Preacher here continues to cover a lot of ground, a lot of thoughts. But he concludes his writing with these words in chapter 12, verse 13-14: The conclusion, when all has been heard: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. Yes, we are to pursue life and consider all that it offers as it states in verse 9 - follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes; but, as we do, we must realize that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. Thus, I feel the conclusion in this is to be careful. If God will bring us into judgement for all these things, then I am to have sound judgment. My last son sleeps now in our house. He is 16 and as I think about this words I think about some of the things he is experimenting with in life. I think of things I experimented with in life as well. And I wonder, the experience is not the problem, but rather it is the indulgence in that experience that is often the problem. We can learn much from these experiences. My hope and desire with my children has not been to just put them in a box and restrict their enjoyment and choices to things, but it is to allow them to make choices, but then to see that with those choices there are consequences. I guess I just didn't realize it was my job always to show them consequences. I was hoping for natural ones. And yet, I must remember, God has given each person a conscience, the ability to understand good and evil. That conscience always has the ability to draw him back in. Promise: I'm continually reminded of these words - "Be Careful." I think that is a sentiment I find in the Book of Numbers and it applies here as well. Prayer: Lord, I thank you for the truths of Your Word. Help me to be more anchored in those truths, in all seasons of the year. I pray that me and my family are always doing in our best in whatever activities we are involved in. Remind us that we can always trust you, even though life is unpredictable. You know it all. Help us to enjoy our days, rejoicing that each day is a gift from you, Lord, in the world we have many choices as to how to live our lives. I pray Lord that we all, me, my family, friends and others, choose you. What a wonderful world this would be, if this was so, for all. Yet, the reality and the truth is many choose alternate ways. For my children, help them in their choices, sometimes trying out new things, looking to see if life has enjoyment in these things and through it all, help them to conclude that you are the author of life. Help them to return to you. Help them to return to truth. It is easy for me to sit in judgment, but what concerns me the most is not trying things out, but it is indulging in those things, to the point that it hampers life. Lord, make us wise and wise followers of You. Do you have a joy in your heart or anxiety in your heart these days? We have been taught three things about how we should live when we look at our death based on the words of Ecclesiastes 11:1-8: (1) First, we must be careful to live our remaining life, trusting God entirely. (2) Second, when we look at our day of death, since we don't know what kind of disaster we may face in the future, we should love our neighbors by helping them as much as we can. (3) Third, we should do our best in doing the work of God as we think about our days of death. We have learned that this is a beautiful life in which we live in obedience to God's Word while looking at the day of death (v.7). Today, I would like to receive a lesson from King Solomon, under the heading "Be happy, young man", based on Ecclesiastes 11:9-10. Though today's text is the message of God to the young people, the principle of the message applies to all of us, and we must listen carefully. First, young people should enjoy their youth. Look at Ecclesiastes 11: 9 - "Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood." After King Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 11:7 and 8, "... it is good for the eyes to see the sun" (v.7), " Indeed, if a man should live many years, let him rejoice in them all ..." (v. 8), he said in verse 9 "Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood." After all, whether we are young or old, regardless of age, we must obey the Word of God, thinking of our days of death (v. 8). We must enjoy doing the work of God, helping our neighbors, as we trust in God completely. King Solomon, in particular, is focusing on young people today in verses 9 and 10. And while he says to the young men, "Rejoice and let your heart be pleasant" (v. 9a) he also says to them "Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things" (v. 9b). Until I meditated on the text today, I became confused every time I read the verse 9. The Bible says to the young man to "Rejoice" and "let our heart be pleasant". But the same Bible says "Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things" (v. 9). So I wasn't sure whether the Bible is telling the young men to rejoice and let their hearts be pleasant or to follow the impulses of their hearts and the desire of their eyes but God will bring them to judgment for all these things (v. 9). Actually, Dr. Park Yun-sun interpreted the verse 9 as follows: 'It is a satirical statement that the so-called 'follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes'. King Solomon is saying that try to do that if you want to. But there is a danger. That's what the word 'God will bring you to judgment (v. 9b)' (Park Yun-sun). However, when I look at the comment of other scholars, I see the interpretation unlike Dr. Park Yun-sun. One scholar, for example, says that young people should enjoy the youthfulness of their hearts, but their desires should be tempered, while being conscious of the judgment of God (Walvoord). I am not sure which scholar's interpretation is right. But when I think about it in the context of Ecclesiastes 11:7-8, I think King Solomon is saying that being aware of the judgment of God, the youth should enjoy their youth with self-controlled desire. Then how can young people enjoy their youth? When we look back on Ecclesiastes which we have already meditated, King Solomon has said many words of rejoicing in life that can be summarized in several ways: 'Enjoy eating and drinking' (2:24; 3:13; 8:15; 9: 7), 'Enjoy life with the woman whom you love' (9:9), 'Enjoy oneself in all one's labor' (2:24, 5:18) and 'Be happy in your activities' (3:22). But when I think about how young people should enjoy their youth, I remembered the words of Psalm 119: 9 - "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word." The young people should rejoice in the pursuit of pure conduct according to the word of God. In a word, the way young people rejoice in their youth is to seek purity. Second, the young people should remove anxiety from their heart and cast off the trouble from their body. Look at Ecclesiastes 11:10 - "So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless." If young people do not pursue the purity of life and conduct according to God's word, they will have anxiety in their hearts. Furthermore, when they do not live according to the Word of God, they can not but sin against God in the body. Park Yun-sun said: 'If a young man does indulgence in his own way, he will eventually become anxious, and will be defiled with evil' (Park Yun-sun). That's why King Solomon counsels the young men to remove anxiety from their heart and cast off the trouble from their body. How is this possible? When young people rejoice in their hearts while seeking purity according to the word of God, they can enjoy the freedom from the anxieties of their hearts and cast off the trouble from their body. Why then should they also live a life of joy and rejoicing in their hearts, seeking purity in accordance with the Word of God? The reason is that the life of youth is fleeting (v. 10). What do you think? Don't you think that time passes by very quickly? Please consider the time of your youth. Didn't your youth pass too quickly? Have you enjoyed your youth time? Did you enjoy your youth? Did your heart have joy because you live a pure life according to the word of God rather than anxiety, pain, and sin? Or did you spend your youth with anxiety, sorrow, pain and sins in your body and mind? What would you recommend to young people? Young people should rejoice in their hearts. They should enjoy eating, drinking, working, and living a happy life with their spouse in marriage. Furthermore, young people must enjoy the joy of their youth by purifying their hearts and deeds according to the word of God. They should never spend their youth in the worries of the mind, the pain of the body as they satisfy their sinful nature. Knowing the judgment of God and the time of youth passes by very quickly, the young people should enjoy the time of youth in the Lord. TODAY YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO ENJOY THEMSELVES WITH ALL SORTS OF ENTERTAINMENT PARTYING, CLUBBING GETTING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND MANY MORE TO IMPRESS THEIR FRIENDS IN DOING ALL WRONG BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT OR BE CALLED SISSES BUT BE WARNED ALL OF IT IS VANITY. GOD WILL JUDGE THEM. SCRIPTURE READING ECCLESIASTES 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. 11:10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity. ECCLESIASTES 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth. a. Cast your bread upon the waters: This probably refers to a shipping venture that required great patience for the return of the investment. The idea is that it was wise and good to work for a return that could not be immediately seen. i. "The allusion is to the element of trust in much ancient business. Ships on commercial voyages might be long delayed before any profit resulted." (Eaton) ii. Some commentators (Trapp, Clarke, and others) think this speaks of generosity. Cast your bread upon the waters is to them a way of saying, "Give your material things to the needy in a way that might seem wasteful - as wasteful as throwing bread upon the waters, and you will be rewarded." If this is the sense, the point is much the same: do something now for a reward that cannot be immediately seen. b. Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, for you do not know what evil will be on the earth: The Preacher counseled generosity and did so in light that the future - though uncertain - must be prepared for. With these ideas he continues to direct us towards the place of true wisdom. i. "'Give a portion to seven' is advice to use all opportunity speculatively, because one does not know what calamities may be ahead, and because it is well to have provided beforehand for such contingencies." (Morgan) 2. (3-4) Cause, effect, and the limits of analysis. If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie. He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap. a. If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: With these proverbs Solomon emphasized the idea of cause and effect. This principle alone directs us toward eternity, because the wickedness or goodness of man in this earthly life is often not answered in this life. The necessary effect from that cause must be realized in eternity. i. Clouds are designed to be full of rain, and therefore to empty themselves upon the earth. For Spurgeon, this idea of design and what comes from it suggested the work of Jesus for us. "Now, dear heart, if thou believest Christ to be a cloud that is full of rain, for what reason is he full? Why, that he may empty himself upon the earth. There was no need that he should be a man full of sympathy except to sympathize with mourning men and women. There was no need that he should bleed except that he might bleed for you. There was no necessity that he should die except that the power of his death might deliver you from death." ii. In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie: "Jerome's strange interpretation of the fallen tree has persisted, and some Christians have quoted it out of context. The tree, he said, is the dead person, and his destiny is fixed at death. But while this is true enough, it cannot be proved from this verse." (Wright) b. He who observes the wind will not sow: The farmer who is overly analytical about the wind or the clouds will never plant his fields, and thus he will not reap. The Preacher gently pushes us away from an overly analytical approach to life. i. "If we are always waiting for favouring conditions, we shall resemble the farmer who is ever looking out for perfect weather, and lets the whole autumn pass without one handful of grain reaching the furrows." (Meyer) ii. "If we keep on observing circumstances, instead of trusting God, we shall be guilty of disobedience. God bids me sow: I do not sow, because the wind would blow some of my seed away. God bids me reap: I do not reap, because there is a black cloud there, and before I can house the harvest, some of it may be spoiled. I may say what I like; but I am guilty of disobedience." (Spurgeon) iii. Spurgeon went on in that sermon (Sowing in the Wind, Reaping Under Clouds) to describe other ways that this attitude sins against God and man. To observe circumstances instead of trusting God shows unbelief, rebellion, foolish fear, and illness. B. Moving towards real wisdom, through fits and starts. 1. (5) The limitations of knowledge. As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. a. As you do not know what is the way of the wind: Solomon again reminds us of the limitations of human knowledge. We don't know the way of the wind or how the bones grow in the womb of a mother. i. "Thus at this point in his closing appeal the Preacher simply insists on a fact: certain aspects of God's working on earth defy explanation. The mystery which shrouds our very origin underlies the whole of reality." (Eaton) ii. As Jesus would later say, The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit (John 3:8). b. So you do not know the works of God who makes everything: In the same way we don't know the hidden things, we also do not know the works of God in any comprehensive way. The Preacher brings us to a place of humility and submission to God and His works that again pushes us out of the previously entrenched under the sun premise. 2. (6) Sowing seed with more trust than certainty. In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper: Solomon again pushes towards an appropriately humble loss of self-confidence. We should give ourselves to all kinds of work because we do not know the results. We know less of the future than we think we do; this shakes the previously assured under the sun premise. 3. (7-8) A final flirtation with the under the sun premise. Truly the light is sweet, And it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; But if a man lives many years And rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming is vanity. a. Truly the light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun: After repeatedly arguing from the premise expressed by the phrase under the sun, the Preacher once more expressed the idea before coming to his conclusions in the last chapter of Ecclesiastes. b. Yet let him remember the days of darkness: The sun gives light, but the under the sun premise seemed to bring the Preacher (and us) into days of darkness; and if lived under that premise, those dark days will be many and there will be much vanity to come. ©2018 David Guzik - No distribution beyond personal use without permission

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