

May-Jun Pulpit Series – “That they may learn to fear Me”

Message Title : “Fear God and keep His commandments” Eccl 12:13 22 Jun 2025

Text: Ecclesiastes 12

INTRODUCTION

1. The Book of Deuteronomy
 - a. The fear of the LORD as foundational
 - b. Tied in with various aspects of relating to God (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)
2. The Book of Proverbs
 - a. The fear of the LORD as the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7)
 - b. Enabling one to practice wisdom and understanding in life
3. The Book of Ecclesiastes
 - a. The fear of the LORD as man’s purpose in life
 - b. A conclusion arrived through contemplating and comprehending life on earth

CONTEMPLATING MAN’S PURPOSE ON EARTH

1. Solomon (Ecclesiastes 1:1)
 - a. King over Israel in Jerusalem
 - b. Preacher who sought to share lessons learnt
2. What he had set his heart to do (Ecclesiastes 1:12-14)
 - a. Seek and search out by wisdom
 - b. The purpose of man’s life on earth

3. Solomon's attempts to find man's purpose in life

- a. By pursuing work
- b. By pursuing wisdom
- c. By pursuing wealth
- d. By pursuing pleasure

COMPREHENDING LIFE ON EARTH

1. Complexities of life observed

- a. Futility
 - i. Of labor (Ecclesiastes 1)
 - ii. Of pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2)
 - iii. Of greatness (Ecclesiastes 2)
 - iv. Of wealth (Ecclesiastes 5)
- b. Time
 - i. A time for every purpose (Ecclesiastes 3)
 - ii. Time and judgement (Ecclesiastes 8)
 - iii. Time and chance (Ecclesiastes 9)
- c. Injustice on earth (Ecclesiastes 4, 6)
- d. Certainty of death
 - i. To the wise and the fool (Ecclesiastes 2:14-16)
 - ii. To the great and the small (Ecclesiastes 9)

- e. Things in life that ought to be cherished
 - i. Companionship (Ecclesiastes 4)
 - ii. A good name (Ecclesiastes 7)
 - iii. Wisdom (Ecclesiastes 8-10)
 - iv. Generosity and charity (Ecclesiastes 11)

2. Comprehension found

- a. Concerning life on earth and earthly pursuits
- b. A recurring understanding (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12:8)
 - i. Vanity of vanities
 - ii. All is vanity
 - iii. Grasping for the wind

CONCLUDING ON THE FEAR OF THE LORD

- 1. Special insights gleaned concerning the fear of the LORD
 - a. What God does (Ecclesiastes 3:14)
 - i. It shall be forever
 - ii. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it
 - iii. God does it, that men should fear before Him
 - b. How faith in God must be practiced (Ecclesiastes 5:1-7)
 - i. With reverence, humility and sincerity
 - ii. Not with empty words
 - iii. It must stem from fearing the LORD

- c. The fear of the LORD protects one (Ecclesiastes 7:16-18)
 - i. From being self-righteous
 - ii. From being foolishly wicked
- d. It will be well with those who fear God (Ecclesiastes 8:10-13)
 - i. We live in an unjust world
 - ii. But God will bless and protect those who fear Him
- 2. Solomon's conclusion of man's purpose in life (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)
 - a. To fear God and keep His commandments
 - i. This is man's all (man's ultimate purpose in life)
 - ii. This is the only thing that will not result in vanity or grasping for the wind
 - b. Reason
 - i. God will bring every work into judgement
 - ii. He will judge every secret thing, good or evil, in our lives
 - iii. The fear of God is the only thing that will enable one to live purposely and pleasing to God!

THE CHALLENGE FOR US ALL

1. Solomon
 - a. He began with the fear of the LORD
 - i. Seeking wisdom
 - ii. To lead God's people
 - b. Sadly, he did not end with the fear of the LORD
 - i. He arrived at this conclusion
 - ii. Through making many mistakes in his life
2. Our challenge
 - a. To learn from Solomon
 - i. His contemplation and comprehension of life and his conclusion
 - ii. His mistakes and inability to conclude his own life well
 - b. To purpose and practice in our own lives
 - i. The fear of God
 - ii. The keeping of His commandments