Review of Ecclesiastes

- The book was written by one old man (Pops) quoting another old man (Solomon) to his son (youths) about wisdom.
- The Goal? To use the wisdom of Solomon to teach his son how to live a life of meaning.
- The Message? You need God! All the things we look to for meaning will never satisfy us apart from God.

Pops' Wisdom for a Meaningful Life

1. Without a God above the sun, all the good things under the sun are like vapor.

2. Learn to enjoy the simple good things of life as gifts of God.

3. Life is hard. Then you die. Deal with it.

4. Many have remembered God too late, but none too soon. Honor God while you're young.

Ecclesiastes 1:1 Pops + 12:9-14

These are the words of the Teacher, King David's son, who ruled in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiaste 1:2 OMS

"Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!"

Ecclesiastes 1:2

“Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher,
“completely meaningless!”

Ecclesiastes 12:8

“Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher,
“completely meaningless.”

Wisdom for the Youths - Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Keep this in mind: The Teacher was considered wise, and he taught the people everything he knew … The words of the wise are like cattle prods—painful but helpful. Their collected sayings are like a nail-studded stick with which a shepherd drives the sheep. But, my child, let me give you some further advice: Be careful, for writing books is endless, and much study wears you out.

That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey His commands, for this is everyone's duty. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

Wisdom for the Youths - Proverbs 1-9

1:8 – My child, listen when your father corrects you...

2:1 – My child, listen to what I say…

3:1 – My child, never forget the things I have taught you.

4:1 – My children, listen when your father corrects you.

5:1 – My son, pay attention to my wisdom…

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Don’t let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor Him in your youth before you grow old and say, “Life is not pleasant anymore.” Remember Him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky. Remember Him before your legs—the guards of your house—start to tremble; and before your shoulders—the strong men—stoop. Remember Him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Remember Him before the door to life's opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint. Remember Him before you become fearful of falling and worry about danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and the caperberry no longer inspires sexual desire. Remember Him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don’t wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

“Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “completely meaningless.”

Remember Because It's Easy to Forget

12:1 - Don’t let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator.

BABY
TEEN
20S -
30S
PRs
METABOLISM
40 - OIL CHECKED
WEATHER

Remember Because It's Easy to Forget

12:1 - Don’t let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator.

"Here is another reason to remember our Creator in the days of our youth: if we remember Him now, we will be able to dedicate the rest of our lives to His service. So, remember Jesus while you still have your wits about you. Remember Him while you are charting His course for your life. Remember Him before you make a lot of bad decisions you will later regret. Remember Him now, while you still have the rest of your life to give for His glory. ‘Many have remembered too late,’ wrote Charles Bridges, but ‘none too soon.’”

– Phil Ryken

To the High Schoolers …

The meaning that comes from God is better than the recognition that comes from cool.

Four Phases of College Transition

1. Exhilaration of independence
2. Disaster from independence
3. Adjustment to independence
4. Flourishing through independence

Luke 9:23-26

Then He said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? If anyone is ashamed of Me and My message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when He returns in His glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.

Matthew 5:11-12

God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are My followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Romans 12:1-2

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.