



The End of the Matter

ECCLESIASTES 11:7—12:8

Solomon concludes by addressing 3 life stages with summary encouragements concerning satisfaction ...

For adults (11:7-8)

So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all ... 11:8a

11:7 Life is a good gift to be enthusiastically savored.

11:8 This good gift is short and sprinkled with difficulties, so make each day special.

For youth (11:9—12:1)

Rejoice, O young man [or woman], in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth ... 11:9

11:9 Enjoy the adventure—be spontaneous, take risks and dream—because God will judge those who respond to His gifts with indifference.

11:10 It's all brief and fleeting, so don't fixate on your inadequacies or ailments.

12:1 Pursue a relationship with God aggressively before destructive habits and unwise choices rob your life of happiness.

For seniors (12:2-8)

Remember also your Creator ... before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken ... 12:1, 6

12:2-5 Mental and physical decline is a God-ordained process, so don't fight it.

12:6-7 If you've lived your life dependent on God you can smile at life's end.

12:2 Without God, life is vanity and meaningless!

The final secret to real satisfaction ...

Enjoy **life now ... because you're not getting younger.** (11:10)

Enjoy _____ now ... because God will judge how well you celebrate His gifts. (11:9b)

Enjoy life _____ ... because with God at the center, that which would have been empty can now be full. (12:1)

_____ ... because God has given you eternity, and you're always on the threshold ... (12:7)

The end of the matter; all has been heard.

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ECCLESIASTES 12:13



SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Since Pastor Ted used the pulpit time this past Sunday to interview a special guest for Father's Day, these sermon notes are intended for individual study as we come to the end of Ecclesiastes.

1. Which of the eight sermons in this series prompted a change in your life, and what was that change? (A short review of each is below.)

- Candle Smoke and Cotton Candy - Looking for ultimate satisfaction in a finite world is profitless
- Destination: Satisfaction - The routes we take are dead ends in themselves, so travel with God
- The Rhythm and Rhyme of Time - God has given ultimate meaning to time and the seasons of life
- Teaching Them God's Way - We are all children of God who need to learn spiritual lessons
- Investing in Things That Last - Investing in God's kingdom focuses us on relationships and eternity
- God's Spiritual Spinach - God has allowed suffering for His purpose and we must opt for heroic living
- Lessons for Students in the School of Life - God wants us to have joy in each assignment He gives
- How to Be Financially Satisfied - Solomon gives a seminar on making money so we can invest wisely

Finding Satisfaction in Him

"There are three requisites to the proper enjoyment of earthly blessings: a thankful reflection on the goodness of the giver; a deep sense of our own unworthiness; and a recollection of the uncertainty of our long possessing them. The first will make us grateful; the second, humble; and the third, moderate."

-Hannah More

"Real satisfaction comes not in understanding God's motives, but in understanding His character, in trusting in His promises, and in leaning on Him and resting in Him as the Sovereign who knows what He is doing and does all things well."

-Joni Eareckson Tada

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and He gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."

-Elisabeth Elliot

"Time is lost when we have not lived a full human life, time unenriched by experience, creative endeavor, enjoyment, and suffering."

-Deitrich Bonhoeffer

"The aim of God in creating and redeeming us is the delight He Himself enjoys in seeing His creatures delight in Him. As [Jonathan] Edwards said, '[The] glorifying of God is nothing but rejoicing in the manifestations of Him.' In other words, the purpose of the knowledge of God is the enjoyment of God because God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him."

-John Piper

coming up, whether pleasurable or mundane, and how you will purposefully enjoy them and thank God for His good gift.

2. Read Ecclesiastes 11:7–12:8. Which of the three main life stages (adults, youth, seniors) on the sermon notes do you most relate to? What do people in that stage struggle with most, and how do they tend to miss enjoying life?

3. How does Solomon's advice for your stage of life encourage you? What specific action will you take in the next week to live out one of the pieces of advice listed in that section?

4. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. What do these verses teach us about the character of God and about ourselves?

5. Fill in the blanks for each of the points in the last section, "The final secret to real satisfaction" (we provided a hint on the first one). After meditating for a bit on each point, write here activities you have

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of "The Source" at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

STOP BY THE FATHER'S DAY CAR SHOW.

Get ready to ooh and aah at the collection of cars, motorcycles and more on display today in the Parking Garage. Dads, there's even a special raffle just for you! Head out to the show before it closes at 6:30 p.m.

RENOVATE [IN THE CITY] IS THIS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21. Young adults, don't miss our night with Pastor Campbell at West Mount Mariah Baptist Church (5325 Bonnell Ave., Fort Worth). We're partnering up for a night of conversation and prayer for our city. We'll see you at 6 p.m. Questions? Email Michael at MichaelK@christchapelbc.org.

JOIN THE CREW OF "CHITTY CHITTY

BANG BANG." We're looking for a few extra hands to help put on this summer's show. If you'd like to join the fun and work as an usher, build sets and props, paint sets, work backstage or assist with costumes and makeup, we want to meet you! Head to www.ccbcfamily.org/musical to learn more about the August musical and sign up.

THE DEADLINE FOR MUSICAMP IS ALMOST

HERE! Parents, MusiCamp is an unbeatable experience for kids entering Grades 1-6 this fall. In a week they'll learn an entire musical and have a blast singing, dancing and performing. The deadline to register is Friday, June 30 so don't delay – head to www.ccbcfamily.org/musicamp this week.

BECOME A SOUL CARE MENTOR.

Christ Chapel's Soul Care Ministry is looking for more mentors to guide individuals in a one-on-one setting, show them how to walk in the freedom Jesus offers, help them identify root causes of brokenness and guide them in developing habits of confession, repentance and growth in grace. Training is provided. Email Libby at LibbyM@christchapelbc.org to learn more.

GET INVOLVED WITH OUR NEW ICAMPUS.

Just like our volunteers who open doors and pray with people on Sundays at our Fort Worth Campus, we're building a team to serve at our new internet campus. As people stream Sunday services around the world, you could welcome, chat with and pray for them. Computer savviness isn't required – we'll teach you everything you need to know! Email Glen at GlenJ@christchapelbc.org to get involved or learn more.

DON'T TRAVEL THIS SUMMER WITHOUT

THE CCBC APP. As you head out of town for vacation, be sure to pack the Christ Chapel App! Available for download from the App Store and Google Play, the app helps you stay in touch while on the go. Features include sermon archives, space for notes, submitting prayer requests, Bible reading plans and more.

Talk to the Lord about His good gift of life as you close in prayer.