

Love, Learn, Live the Word (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Love the Word

Have you encountered God, yet continue to pursue life apart from Him? Solomon experienced this at extraordinary levels. His final counsel on the issue is priceless for us because it offers the loving protection of God.

Learn the Word

Solomon, the Son of David and Bathsheba, was originally named Jedidiah, which meant, “loved by the Lord” (2 Samuel 12:24-25). He became Israel’s third King who led its most prosperous 40 years (1 Kings 11:42) and was renowned as the wisest man who ever lived before Christ (1 Kings 4:31).

God appeared to Solomon twice (1 Kings 3:5-15; 9:1-9; 11:9). In his first encounter, God offered Solomon everyone’s dream: “Ask for whatever you want me to give you” (1 Kings 3:5). Due to the conflict he would experience as king, Solomon asked for a discerning heart (1 Kings 3:9), and God granted his request (1 Kings 3:12). In Solomon’s second encounter, God responded to Solomon’s prayer of dedication for the temple (2 Chronicles 6:24-25, 36; 7:14). Despite those intimate encounters with God, Solomon pursued life apart from Him in at least five arenas that remain a risk for us today.

Solomon pursued earthly knowledge apart from God for the sake of contentment (Ecclesiastes 1:12-18). He stored up possessions for the sake of significance (Ecclesiastes 2:4-8a). The King built military might for the sake of control (Ecclesiastes 4:13-16; 8:2-10). He stockpiled money for the sake of security (Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; 7:12). He even ran after pleasure for the sake of gratification (Ecclesiastes 2:1-3; 8b-11).

What can we learn? Life apart from God is meaningless. A divided heart led to a divided kingdom. It’s the first sin. It’s the wide gate. It’s the love of this world. Despite his encounters with God and his earthly father’s advice, King Solomon pursued life apart from God, the only One who could truly satisfy His desires. David’s first words to Solomon (Proverbs 4:3-9) and his last (1 Kings 2:1-4) were to keep God’s commands. Even God Himself repeated this same charge to King Solomon (1 Kings 9:3-9). It’s no wonder that Solomon’s Last Will and Testament of Ecclesiastes summarized his review mirror perspective.

Live the Word

Memorize Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and recite it each day for the next month. God is always faithful, but we are not. That’s why we need Christ to pursue life with God (Psalm 127:1), bringing us in *communion* with Him (Ecclesiastes 3:11) and *community* with others (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Christ never fails. When we surrender to Him, He will be with us, always.