**“Man’s All”**

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

**March 12, 2025**

**Could someone really get away with not having to realize sin in their life by simply creating a façade?**

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**The worldly man will live out his life on his terms and seek to serve his flesh in some form or fashion until his time on earth was finished.**

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**From a Christian’s perspective, trying to live a life serving our flesh at all will be met with a great deal of chastising and conviction from the Spirit of the Lord.**

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The Book of Ecclesiastes explores the futility of earthly pursuits without a focus on God, emphasizing the importance of fearing God and enjoying life's gifts as a reflection of His grace, rather than seeking lasting meaning through worldly achievements.

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The book of Ecclesiastes is unique and provocative as it states powerfully and repeatedly that everything is meaningless (“vanity”) without a proper focus on God.

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The book reveals the necessity of fearing God in a fallen and frequently confusing and frustrating world.

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No matter how wise or rich or successful one may be, one cannot find meaning in life apart from God.

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There is a lot to the “Whole Matter”. The entire book of Ecclesiastes could be considered the “whole matter” and likely is.

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Chapter 12 focuses on our mortality and acknowledges the mindset of a man as he ages. Verses 2-5 give **a poetic description of advancing age, whereas v**erses 6-8 continue with this description until death.

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Solomon was a *wise man*, who was given a divine gift of wisdom by God, which he shared through putting together a set of sayings that could become mental models for daily living. The Book of Proverbs is a sort of companion piece to the conclusions of Ecclesiastes.

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Christian discipline is not about self-improvement.

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We should never minimize the value or vitality of growing in Christ.

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The first thing to say is that growing in Christ is not something we can produce. We are, no doubt, involved in the process, but God is the provider.

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Our focus is not to be on our actions, our technique, our efforts and resolve to improve, but on the glory of Christ. To grow in Christ, we don’t set out to grow; we set out to taste his goodness.

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Other Scripture References: **1 John 3:17-18;** Eccles. 2:21, 5:10, 2:11, 6:2, 12:1, 14, 2-5, 12:9-12; 1 Kings 4:29-30; **Eccles. 12:13-14;** [2 Thess. 1:3](https://ref.ly/2%20Thess%201.3;esv?t=biblia); [Heb. 12:14](https://ref.ly/Heb%2012.14;esv?t=biblia); [2 Pet. 3:18](https://ref.ly/2%20Pet%203.18;esv?t=biblia); [1 Cor. 3:6–7](https://ref.ly/1%20Cor%203.6%E2%80%937;esv?t=biblia); [Gal. 5:25](https://ref.ly/Gal%205.25;esv?t=biblia); [Mark 4:26–27](https://ref.ly/Mark%204.26%E2%80%9327;esv?t=biblia); [1 Pet. 2:2–3](https://ref.ly/1%20Pet%202.2%E2%80%933;esv?t=biblia)