

Sermon Questions for Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8

July 2, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 2) As wisdom literature does so well, this text is full of rich images and metaphors. How do 11:7-8 use the image of light (i.e., the sun, sunrise) to depict the “sweetness” and “pleasantness” of each day?
- 3) How do those same verses use the image of darkness to depict the troubles or sufferings that come?
- 4) Do you understand the rich images in 12:1-8 of the encroachment or invasion of old age (12:1-5a) and death (12:5b-8) on youthfulness? For example, explain how the statement, “the grasshopper drags itself along,” pictures the frail old person who has lost mobility?
- 5) How do these metaphors and images affect you differently than a propositional (content) statement: “a dragging grasshopper” versus “people lose mobility in old age?” Why would God use images and metaphors to teach us and not only propositional statements?
- 6) Why would God want us to enjoy and be thankful for each and every day?
- 7) How does this text teach you to be thankful for every day? What are some ways you and your family can develop habits of gratitude for every day?
- 8) This text clearly sees the blessing of youthfulness (cf. 11:9). How can a young person learn to see the common grace gift of strength and vitality?
- 9) This text also clearly sees the blessing of many years (cf. 11:8a). How can an old person learn to see the common grace gift of time and experience?
- 10) This text exhorts us to hold in tension the blessing of each day and the suffering that surely comes with living. How can we learn to appreciate the sweet “light” of each day (11:7) and at the same time trust in God when the suffering “clouds” come (12:2)?

Further study this week: Psalm 92 on how the righteous enjoy each day (Mon); 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 on the body renewed by the soul (Tues); Philippians 1:19-26 on grounding our life in Christ (Wed); Lamentation 3 on the daily mercies of God (Thurs); 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 on the loss of the powerlessness of death (Fri).