**The Conclusion, When All Has Been Heard..."

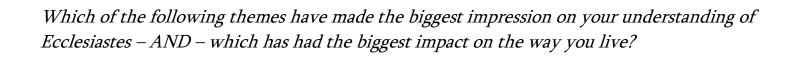
(Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

Summary of the Preacher's Main Points So Far:

- 1. The Whole of Life is *vanity* a mere breath in which none of our personal accomplishments or legacies will survive or be remembered (Ecclesiastes 1).
- 2. Even those specific things that are precious to us, that we hold onto so tightly and invest so much in, also have little or no lasting satisfaction (Ecclesiastes 2).
- 3. Life is not about struggling to gain; but rather letting go, and learning to simply receive and enjoy life as a gift accepting this is the beginning of true Joy, Hope, and Freedom (Ecclesiastes 3).
- 4. A) Making life about "ME" is the source of most pain.
 - B) Making life about others -- you will find true joy and contentment that cannot be matched elsewhere under the sun (Ecclesiastes 4).
- 5. Religion, like any other pursuit, is vanity if approached for personal gain, rather than as a platform for giving (Ecclesiastes 5).
- 6. Don't try to control your life, or you will suffer the tragedy of never finding contentment (Ecclesiastes 6).
- 7. Let Death be your teacher and learn to live life backwards and choose wisdom over escapism; but know that even wisdom is limited (Ecclesiastes 7).
- 8. Learning to respect authority and doing what's right even when it seems to make no difference has significance beyond life under the sun (Ecclesiastes 8).
- 9. Life is a gift, not Gain. But be careful to worship God and not the gifts (Ecclesiastes 9).
- 10. Life under the sun is full of Wisdom, uncertainty, and irony (Ecclesiastes 10:1-11:6).
- 11. Rejoice in the Blissful Gift of Life; But Live with It's Inevitable End in View (Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8).

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs. ¹⁰ The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly. ¹¹ The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of *these* collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd. ¹² But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion *to books* is wearying to the body. ¹³ The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* (the whole of) every person. ¹⁴ For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.





"Delightful Words of Truth"

Pain

"Words Like Goads & Well-Driven Nails"

Frustration

"Endless," "Excessive," & "Wearying"

Purpose

"The whole of every person"

Perspective

"Every act to judgment, hidden...good or evil"