

“Remember Now Your Creator In The Days Of Your Youth”

Eccl. 12:1

Introduction:

- A. One can begin serving the Lord at any age. (Matt 20:1-16).
- B. One has many good reasons for beginning at young age.

Discussion:

I. IN ORDER TO GIVE THE STRONGEST YEARS TO GOD.

- A. Our bodies are to serve God. (Rom. 12:1,2; 1Cor. 6:20; 2 Cor. 5:10).
- B. Our bodies deteriorate with age:
 - 1. Failing eyesight (vs. 2,3) reduces ability to read, etc.
 - 2. Failing hands and legs reduce ability to do. (vs. 3).
 - 3. Failing voice reduces ability to sing. (vs. 4).
 - 4. Failing general health reduce our abilities.
 - a. Fewer bright days due to failing health. (v.2)
 - b. Poor teeth prevent proper eating. (vs. 3,4).
 - c. Light sleep reduces strength. (v.4)
 - d. Physical strength decreases. (v. 5).
 - e. Fears increase. (v. 5).

II. IN ORDER TO AVOID LOOKING BACK ON AN EMPTY LIFE.

- A. We can learn from Solomon's words to his son about life. (Ecc. 1:1; 12:12,13).
 - 1. He learned that education was not the "whole of man". (Ecc. 1:12-18).
 - a. There's always another book to read and more studying to do (Ecc. 12:12) - another course to take.
 - b. Yet, in end no better than fool. (Ecc. 2:10-17).
 - 2. He learned that pleasure was not the "whole of man". (Ecc. 2:1-3).
 - a. There is always another thrill to seek - another game to try - more fun to be had - all of which profit this life only at best. (1 Tim. 4:7,8).
 - b. Yet, in the end striving for wind. (Ecc. 2:10-11).
 - 3. He learned that wealth and things was not the "whole of man". (Ecc. 2:4-9;17-26).
 - a. There is always another dollar to be made - more things that need buying - more investments to be made.
 - b. Yet, in the end means nothing. (Ecc. 5:10; 6:1-2)
 - 4. He learned that serving God was "the whole of man". (Ecc. 12:13).
- B. We can try to make God serve such empty pursuits.
 - 1. Religion becomes a means of material profit. (1 Tim. 6:4).
 - 2. Religion becomes a means of fleshly pleasure - offering "fun and games" - a good time become objective and incentive.
 - 3. Religion becomes a means of education - becomes purely an intellectual exercise.
 - 4. Religion accepted and practiced to extent that it serves these purposes. We become party to such use by offering such carnal rewards to secure interest in religion. (Cf. 1 Cor. 2:22-24).

III. IN ORDER TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR CRITICAL MOMENTS IN LIFE.

- A. He will be better equipped for life's major decisions: Marriage, career, etc.
 - 1. He will have accumulated Bible knowledge about these things.
 - 2. He will have more keenly observed other Christian's decisions.
- B. He will be better equipped to handle life's troubles.
 - 1. One needs faith to sustain him at such times (cf. Heb. 11)
 - 2. One's faith increases with time, study and practice.

IV. IN ORDER TO HAVE FEWER REGRETS IN THE END.

- A. How many old Christians regret having become a Christian in youth?
- B. How many old Christians wish they had not wasted earlier years?

C. How many friends and relatives could one have influenced during unfaithful years?

V. IN ORDER TO INSURE DYING IN THE LORD.

A. The young die as well as the old. (Jas. 4:13-17).

B. The old may develop a hardened conscience with time and resistance.

CONCLUSION:

A. Eccl. 12:1

B. Eccl. 12:13