

Message Title: The Inescapable End

Ecclesiastes 2:12-26 NKJV |Sunday AM, October 3rd,2021 Pastor Jack Lamb

¹²Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; For what can the man do who succeeds the king?— Only what he has already done. 13 Then I saw that wisdom excels folly As light excels darkness. ¹⁴The wise man's eyes are in his head, But the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived That the same event happens to them all. ¹⁵ So I said in my heart, "As it happens to the fool, It also happens to me, And why was I then more wise?" Then I said in my heart, "This also is vanity." ¹⁶ For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool! 17 Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind. ¹⁸ Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity. 20 Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun. ²¹ For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great

evil. ²² For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? ²³ For all his days *are* sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity. ²⁴ Nothing *is* better for a man *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. ²⁵ For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I? ²⁶ For *God* gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who *is* good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to *him who is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.

Introduction

: Death is Inevitable – vs.12-23

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3 Our	: Life is a Gift – vs.24-26
2. Our	: Life is a Gift - vs.24-26

Sermon Application Questions

- 1. What is your motivation for getting up each morning?
- 2. What do the lives of people you know reveal about what they think will make them happy?
- 3. How would you describe "true joy" to a friend who knows nothing of this?
- 4. What strategies do you think people you know, including yourself, use to avoid facing the reality of death?
- 5. What do you make of the idea that death can give us the perspective we need to begin to enjoy life?

BE A DOER. Your responsibility, by God's enabling, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil 2:12-13; 1 Tim 4:7-9; James 1:22-27). As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions: (1) How does God want my beliefs/actions to change? (2) How can I accomplish this change? (3) What is the first step toward bringing about this change?