

Enjoy the Gift and Giver of Life in This World –
While You Can

Ecclesiastes 11:7 – 12:8

I. Rejoice throughout the years of your life
(11:7-8a).

“Growing old makes your body and inner-self (mind & heart) part company, as one ages and the other stays young. It leaves a person depressed at the disconnect between the mirror and the mind—how we look to others versus how we think about ourselves.”

- David Gibson

*You who are young, be happy while you are young,
and let your heart give you joy in the days of
your youth.*

*Follow the ways of your heart
and whatever your eyes see,
but know that for all these things
God will bring you into judgment. (v.9, NIV)*

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever
you do, do all to the glory of God.
(1 Cor.10:13)*

I. Rejoice throughout the years of your life
(11:7-8a).

II. Remove all the problems and pains that you can
(11:10).

“With these words, the Preacher advises us to eliminate the bad things in life that trouble our bodies and our souls. A “vexation” is any problem that causes us worry and concern, that “angers, grieves or irritates.” It is “the bitterness provoked by a hard and disappointing world.”

-Philip Ryken

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil.4:6-7)

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B. Life get harder if you live a long life (12:1-8).

“The keepers of the house” are a person’s arms,
which start to tremble.

“The strong men” are legs, which are bent with
age.

“The grinders” are teeth, of course, if any are left.

“The windows” are eyes dimmed by cataracts or a general loss of vision.

“The doors” are ears that are deaf or hard of hearing and thus closed to the hustle and bustle of a noisy street.

Old people have trouble sleeping (v.4); they are up with the first songbirds, before dawn.

They are afraid (v.5) — afraid of falling or of being attacked along the road.

Their hair turns white (v.5 “the almond tree blossoms”).

They suffer from diminished desire (v.5), which may include sexual desire but is not limited to that.

Then one day the crumbling old house will collapse (v.5). Typically, grasshoppers spring up in the air. So, a grasshopper stiffly scraping itself along the ground is a goner.

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B. Life get harder if you live a long life (12:1-8).

C. Life begins and ends with God.

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(12:1).
2. Life ends with God – He is our Judge
(11:9c; 12:8)

“If something happens to me again, don’t let any doctor do anything to me. I’m an old woman and I know I can’t live forever. I don’t think I’ll live long and I’m ready to go.”

“I don’t want to leave y’all, but you can’t live forever.

- Dorothy Stone