

Pastor PJ Berner • Compass Bible Church • May 4-5, 2021 • Ecclesiastes 11:7–12:8

**Aging Well**

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.11.7-21.12.1) and summarize what Solomon was saying in your own words.

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 11:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.11.8). This is a somber statement from Solomon about what should temper our outlook on life. What are the “days of darkness”? And how should they impact our outlook on our current day-to-day lives?

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 11:9-10](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.11.9-21.11.10) and [Jeremiah 17:9](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.24.17.9). Did Solomon not know what Jeremiah knew about the heart? How should we understand [Ecc 11:9](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.11.9) and Solomon’s advice to “walk in the ways of your heart”?

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 12:1-8](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.12.1-21.12.8). This is one extended analogy of growing old being compared to a house that is falling into ruin and disrepair. Do your best to identify what aspect of the body Solomon was referencing with each of the following metaphors:  
   * 1. “the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain” =
     2. “the keepers of the house tremble” =
     3. “the strong men are bent” =
     4. “the grinders cease because they are few” =
     5. “those who look through the windows are dimmed” =
     6. “the doors on the street are shut--when the sound of the grinding is low” =
     7. “one rises up at the sound of a bird” =
     8. “they are afraid of what is high and terrors are in the way” =
     9. “the almond tree blossoms” =
     10. “the grasshopper drags itself along” =
     11. “desire fails” =
     12. “the silver cord is snapped...the golden bowl is broken...the pitcher is shattered...the wheel is broken...” =
2. Old age and the deterioration of the body is the inevitable result of the Lord’s allowing a person to accrue many days and years of living. How can these latter years remain a blessing and a joy despite what Solomon portrays in this analogy?
3. What advice would you give to a young man who is in the vigor of his youth knowing what awaits him in a few short decades if the Lord tarries?