

Pastor PJ Berner • Compass Bible Church • May 18-19, 2021 • Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

**The End of the Matter**

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 12:9-10](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.12.9-21.12.10). What in these verses tells us that Ecclesiastes is more than an exercise in depressing the reader through random musings about the futility of life?

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 12:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.12.11) and then read [this article](https://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/goad.html) from the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia about the word “goad.” What is a goad? How are Solomon’s words like goads to his readers? (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/goad.html>)

1. In [Ecclesiastes 12:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.12.11), Solomon refers to the “one Shepherd.” We’re familiar with the imagery of Jesus as the Good Shepherd from [John 10](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.64.10). Do some research to determine other locations in the OT where God is identified as a shepherd.
2. Read [2 Timothy 3:16-17](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.76.3.16-76.3.17). What are the parallels between these two texts?
3. Many people don’t like the book of Ecclesiastes, finding it depressing or discouraging. How does [Ecclesiastes 12:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.12.11) answer this perspective? After having studied the book, how has your perspective changed?

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 12:12](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.12.12). Notice that Solomon doesn’t prohibit consulting or reading or studying anything outside of the Scriptures. What does he do instead? What ways have you found this verse to be helpful?
2. Read [Ecclesiastes 12:13-14](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.12.13-21.12.14). How does this verse prove to be an appropriate summation of Solomon’s entire argument without being a nihilistic or fatalistic “giving up”?
3. There are some who believe this section is a later addition to the book that an unknown editor added as a corrective to the negative tone of the rest of Ecclesiastes. What in these final verses do you observe that contradicts that position? What parallels can you trace back to other sections of Ecclesiastes we previously studied?

1. What are some ways that this study of Ecclesiastes has changed you? How has it changed your perspective on the book? What are some changes you have made to your daily life?