

ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS - [\(SERMON MP3\)](#)

Solomon said in Ecc. 12:13 that life is all about fearing God. A.W. Tozer would agree with Him. He said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."



- *How does an accurate knowledge God impact everything else you know? Give two or three practical examples of how knowing God changes your view on another area of life.*
- *What does the following statement from Oswald Chambers mean? "When you fear God you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God you fear everything else." (Consult Deut. 5:29, Ps 111:10, Prov 9:10, Luke 12:4-7, John 6:28-29, 2 Cor. 7:1, 1 John 4:17-18)*

We are to demonstrate our proper fear of God by keeping His commandments. Do you find that hard to do? Why is it so difficult to "keep God's commands" (Ecc. 12:13)?



- *Read 1 John 5:3. God's commandments "are not _____." Jesus himself said in Matt 11:30, "My yoke is _____ and My burden is _____."*
- *How can we make sense of these verses when they are not always true of our experience? What is the connection between fearing and keeping? Read John 14:15, 15:9-10, 1 John 2:3-6.*
- *In what area of your life do you find it the most difficult to obey God?*

We fear God and keep His commandments, because of the reality of judgment. The joys of the present depend on the security of the future.



- *Does a day of future reckoning motivate me or paralyze me? Our proper motivation is found in 1 Peter 4:7-11 and 1 John 4:17-18.*
- *What will it take for me to hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matt 25:21, 23)?*

When read in light of the rest of the Bible, Solomon's conclusion (12:13-14) is a ultimately gospel call. How can you begin an explanation of the gospel with this sentence? "There's a massive canyon between the way things are and the way they ought to be."



- *How does a deep understanding of the futility of life under the sun help us in sharing the gospel?*
- *Did Jesus experience the emptiness and meaninglessness of this world? How? How did He escape it? How do we? ¹*

