

ECCLESIASTES 12:8-12 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GOADS IN LIFE & NAILS OF TRUTH - ([SERMON MP3](#))

Ecclesiastes can be read as Solomon's personal apology for wasting His life. Solomon had it all, tried it all, lost it all, and in the end saw it all from God's perspective again. In fact, Ecc. 12:1-7 may be a statement of personal testimony—he wasted his youth trying to make life work his own way and now looking back as an old man, regrets it and begs his son (v12) to avoid the same mistakes.



- *If you were to do the same thing, what would your personal apology say? How would you personally plead with others not to waste their lives?*

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon set out to communicate the meaning of life under the sun, and his book takes the form of a conversation between the wrong way to live life and God's ultimate right way. And in that, we see that God gives man everything He needs to find the meaning of life in Him alone. Solomon says he communicated that meaning through goads and nails given by One Shepherd. Think about the three statements* below and write a few ways that you have seen them to be true in your own life or experience.



- **Reflection** (goads of life) *without* **revelation** (nails of truth) *brings* **despair**. (Ecc 1:3, 2:17, 22-23)
- **Revelation** *without* **reflection** *brings* **pride**. (1 Cor. 4:6-8, Rev. 3:17, James 1:17).
- **Reflection** *with* **revelation** *brings* **dependence**. (Reveals our need of One Shepherd) (Ps 40:1-5)

Solomon says that the key to finding the meaning to life is in acknowledging the goads of life and anchoring your life with the nails of God's truth.



- Goads are the disturbing reflections of a thinking man. *The pricks of life when we do not live according to God's ways. What goads have you encountered in your own life? How did they drive you away from yourself and cause you to lose confidence in your own goodness or wisdom?*
- Nails firmly fixed are the revealed truths of God found in His word. *Read Luke 6:47-49. God's word _____ those who read it and obey it. Share an experience in your life where you have seen that to be true.*

What words come to mind when you meditate on the truth that God is your Shepherd? (Ps 23:1, Is. 40:100 Ezek. 34:11-16, 37:24-25)



- *We all need to be goaded out of what is wrong, and we need our lives firmly fixed by the nails of God's truth, but ultimately Isaiah 53:6 tells us that we are all like _____ that _____. For wayward Sheep, Jesus the Good Shepherd _____ down his _____ for His sheep.*

