## **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.



		SCH MINIS
•	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?	
conversation the r	book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon set out to communicate the meaning of life under the sun, and his book takes the form of a ation 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 meaning of life in Him alone. Solomon says he communicated that meaning through goads and nails given by One Shepherd. Think about a statements* below and write a few ways that you have seen them to be true in your own life or experience.	MS
•	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)	
Solomoi God's tr	n 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 outh.	MS SCIP SCIP MINIS
•	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 obey it. Share an experience in your life where you have seen that to be true.	and
What wo	ords 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)	MS

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

down his

that

for His sheep.

. For wayward Sheep, Jesus the Good Shepherd \_

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew those jobs needed doing, and so you're not surprised. But presently, He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of — throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." - CS LEWIS - MERE CHRISTIANITY

## DIGGING DEEPER (FOR EXTRA PERSONAL STUDY)

live

lived. Read a little of Rehoboam's desires and pursuits in 1 Kings 12:1-15. How would the messages found in Ecclesiastes helped Rehoboam's life?				
How is the description of Solomon (12:9-10) similar to the description of a scribe's work in Ezra 7:10?				
•	In what way(s) should your life be similar to those of Solomon and Ezra?			
•	Even though you may not be in vocational ministry, how is the Lord calling you to step up your own spiritual disciplines and public ministry?			
		PRAYER REQUESTS		
•	Why is it important that Solomon was careful in his teaching? What does it look like to be a careful teacher today? What should you look for in the teaching you listen to?			
•	For us to trust Solomon's words, we must believe they are inspired by God. How do we know when someone is speaking inspired words today?			
•	If life is a school, then the Holy Spirit is our teacher. Read John 14: 26; 15: 26; 16: 12–15; Psalm 119: 97–104; and			
	2 Peter 3: 18. What do each of these verses tell us about our teacher and what we ought to be learning?			
Read John 10:7-18, 1 Corinthians 15:58, John 14:6, Rev. 21:4-5. How does Jesus give meaning to life under the sun?				
Read Jo				