

The End of All Things . . . The Gospel

August 30, 2026

Main Passage: Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Theological Theme

The key to living well, even when it feels futile, is to fear God and keep His commands (v. 13).

Introduction

- ❓ What is your favorite movie ending? Why do you enjoy it?
- ❓ Why do you think endings feel significant to us?

1. The Teacher (Ecclesiastes 12:9-10)

We know that Solomon didn't live perfectly. Later in his life, he gave in to idol worship after being tempted by his foreign wives, for whom he had built pagan shrines (1 Kings 11:1-13). However, despite his faults and failings, Solomon was wise, and he shared knowledge that still informs God's people today. Consider the book of Proverbs, which we still turn to for wise counsel today, thousands of years after Solomon wrote those words of wisdom.

- ❓ True wisdom comes not from man but from God. How does this inform our reading of Ecclesiastes?
- ❓ What wisdom can we glean from the book of Ecclesiastes?
- ❓ How is Solomon's life a reminder that God uses broken people for His purposes? How has He done this in your life?

2. The Sayings of the Wise (Ecclesiastes 12:11-12)

The sayings of Solomon are not only well-stated; they are incredibly useful. Like a cattle prod guides an aimless steer, the sayings of the wise (v. 11) guide us. In Solomon's time, a cattle prod was likely a stick with a point (1 Samuel 13:21).

- ❓ How have wise sayings been like cattle prods (v. 11) for you?
- ❓ Why do we need these types of prompts from God in daily life? What happens without them?
- ❓ How have you found God's Word to be fixed and dependable throughout your life?

3. The Conclusion (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Solomon began this book by exploring the point of life. If we are destined not to contribute anything, and the people of the world will forget us in a few generations . . . how do we live well? Life may seem futile at times, but life lived in partnership with the Lord is always meaningful.

- ❓ What conclusion did Solomon make in these verses?
- ❓ How does this reality impact our lives today?
- ❓ How does fearing God lead to obedience? If you know God but don't obey Him, what does that say to Him about the way you view Him and your relationship with Him?

Conclusion

- ❓ What does today's passage teach us about God and His character?
- ❓ What does it mean to fear God and keep his commands (v. 13)? How are you pursuing this aim daily?
- ❓ How might living as Solomon recommended give us opportunities to share Christ with others?