

The End of the Matter (Ecclesiastes 12:8-14)

I. Introduction (12:8)

All on earth is vanity, but that is not the end of the matter

II. The Character of the author (12:9-10)

the Preacher is wise (1 Kings 4:29-34)

he shares his knowledge with others

he arranged his words carefully (orderly)

he chooses words that are delightful (the beauty of God's Word)

he is upright and truthful (important in age of tolerance)

III. The Content of the author's discourse (12:11-12)

like goads to your soul

do not just read the Word, but act on it

like nails firmly fixed

memorize the Word

given by One Shepherd

Jesus Christ is the One Shepherd (Ez 34:23, Jn 10:16)

beware of anything beyond these

do not weary yourself with many books

IV. The Conclusion based on the author's discourse (12:13-14)

the end of the matter; all has been heard

after 12 chapters – it all comes down to this conclusion

fear God and keep His commandments

the meaning of life in one command, just six words!

Is **fear of God** taught in the New Testament?

(1 Pet 2:17, Matt 10:28, Luke 12:5, Re 14:7, Ep 5:21,

Phil 2:12, 1 Pet 1:17, Col 3:22, Heb 4:1, 2 Cor 7:1,

John 14:15, 1 John 5:3)

Why fear God?

this is the whole of man (we were created to fear God)

because there is a God and a final judgment

How are we to respond to this?

The unbeliever – terror (Heb 9:27, Rom 6:23)

The believer – comfort (John 5:22-24)