

The Golden Years (Ecclesiastes 11:8-12:8)

I. Introduction: What are our “golden years”?

II. Rejoice in your youth (11:8-12:2)

Rejoice, Remove, Remember (all point to one command)
(Psalm 137:6, Exodus 12:14)

Rejoice is not a new command in Ecclesiastes
(2:24-25, 5:20, 9:7-10)

Rejoice responsibly

“*get ready for the judgment day*”

Remove vexation

more than just “*don’t worry, be happy!*”

Remember when you are young because your days are fleeting

The winter is coming sooner than you think
The danger of putting off living
A challenge to young people in our church

III. Rejoice in your old age (12:3-8)

This Old House: A description of our *golden years* (12:3-6)

trembling hands, a bent back, broken teeth, loss of eyesight,
hearing loss, can’t sleep, raspy voice, falling and not getting up,
white hair, loss of agility, loss of appetite for food or sex
all leading to the inevitability of death

There is yet hope to *remember your Creator* before you die (12:6)

Even though this old house is breaking down
Even though your life will soon be irreparably shattered
Even though you will soon return to dust (Gen 3:19)
Even though all is vanity (12:8)
We may find hope in this poem that is as *honest* as it is *beautiful*
(Psalm 71:9, 18, 92:14, Isaiah 46:4)

We rejoice in the hope of a fourth “R” The R _____
(2 Corinthians 5:1)