

Let Us Prepare for Judgment

(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

Introduction:

1. Ecclesiastes is a very interesting book that deserves our careful attention.
2. According to the opening verse, Solomon wrote this book.
 - a. As a young man, he demonstrated great wisdom.
 - b. Unfortunately, with the passing of time, Solomon lost sight of what is really important in life.
 - c. Throughout Ecclesiastes, Solomon showed how he got sidetracked.
 - d. After pursuing many things, he determined that they were all *"vanity and vexation of spirit."*
 - e. Thankfully, something caused Solomon to realize that *"the whole duty of man"* is to *"fear God and keep his commandments."*
3. It seems from vs.14 that the judgment caused Solomon to regain his focus.
4. If we are not careful, we can get sidetracked just like Solomon did.
 - a. A number of issues can cause us to lose our focus, including terrorism, crime, natural disasters, the economy, health care, etc.
 - b. We must never allow issues such as these to prevent us from being ready for the judgment.
5. In our lesson we are considering a number of important principles that relate to being prepared for judgment.

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST OBSERVE THAT JUDGMENT IS A REALITY
 - A. In Ecclesiastes 12:14 Solomon showed that the judgment will occur.
 - B. The reality of the judgment is also declared in Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10.
- II. SINCE JUDGMENT IS A REALITY, JESUS WANTS US TO BE READY
 - A. We need to listen to Jesus because:
 1. He is the judge (John 5:22)
 2. His Word is the standard by which we will be judged (John 12:48).
 - B. At the judgment there will be a separation (Matthew 25:31-33).
 - C. To those:
 1. who are prepared, judgment will be a time for rejoicing
 2. who are unprepared, judgment will be a time of great sadness.
 - D. When Jesus returns, it will be too late to get ready -- the time to prepare is now.
 - E. Jesus wants us to get ready and stay ready (Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:13).

III. LET US TURN OUR ATTENTION TO SOME SPECIFIC MATTERS THAT RELATE TO BEING READY FOR THE JUDGMENT

- A. First, we will be judged on whether we are members of His church.
 - 1. We learn from Acts 2:47 that Christ adds those who are saved to His church.
 - 2. We learn from 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 that those who do not obey the Gospel will *"be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord."*
 - 3. We learn from Revelation 2:10 that the faithful will receive *"a crown of life."*
- B. Each person will be judged by:
 - 1. his judgment of others (Matthew 7:1-2; John 7:24)
 - 2. his words (Matthew 12:35-37; Colossians 4:6)
 - 3. his works (Matthew 16:27; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
 - 4. his assistance of the needy (Matthew 25:31-46; Galatians 6:10)
 - 5. what is written in the books (Revelation 20:12).

Conclusion:

- 1. These matters are extremely important -- the way we approach them will affect our standing at the judgment.
- 2. Let us go back to where we began.
 - a. Solomon got sidetracked concerning what is really important in life.
 - b. However, the reality of the judgment brought him back to his senses.
- 3. Many things can cause us to get sidetracked, but the reality of the judgment will help us to get back on track and to stay on track.
- 4. Are you prepared to face Jesus in judgment? (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)