



“The Goad and the Nail”

Ecc1. 12:6-14

September 6, 2020

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- 7 then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.
- 8 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "all is vanity!"
- 9 In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs.
- 10 The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.
- 11 The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd.
- 12 But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body.
- 13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.
- 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

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- This is the final of 3 “remember Him.” (other verses – 1,2)
- All of the images here portray death –
 - “broken cord”
 - “crushed bowl”

Zech 4:2

2 He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it;

***The light has gone out.**

“shattered pitcher”

“crushed wheel”

***The water has dried up.**

• **Remember your Creator before it is too late.**

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• Death is the returning of the body to the dust.

Gen 3:19

19 By the sweat of your face

You will eat bread,

Till you return to the ground,

Because from it you were taken;

For you are dust,

And to dust you shall return."

• After death, man's spirit will return to God to experience final salvation or final condemnation.

• No where does the Bible teach universalism or annihilationism.

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• So we end where we began (1:2)

• Life "under the sun," never changes – no progress, no utopias. People are born and people die. Unending meaningless.

• Every person born in this world ends in the same place – death – how worthless - EXCEPT the one who goes above the sun and comes to know God through His Son.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

1. If there is no God, then there is no Judge.

2. If there is no Judge, then there will be no Final Judgment.

3. If there is no Final Judgment, there is no ultimate meaning to life. Nothing matters

But the final message of Ecclesiastes is not that nothing matters but that everything does.

1. God exists—He is the Creator.

2. Since God is the Creator, He is also the Judge.

3. If God is the Judge, there will be a final judgment.

4. Since there will be a final judgment, everything we do (how we live) matters.

5. Therefore, even though life is but a fleeting breath, it is not futile and insignificant.

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Solomon gives us a pattern for those who wisely teach:

- imparts knowledge

Hos 4:6

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

- he meditates
- he researches

Ezra 7:10

10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

- he organizes

10 The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.

- Next, is how you present what you have studied.

"delightful" - **נִחְמָד** - chephets – desirable, valuable.

Ps 19:10

10 They (*God's Words*) are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;

- Words are containers that will carry the truth. They must be chosen carefully.

2 Tim 1:13

13 Retain the standard of **sound words** which you have heard from me,

1 Tim 6:3-4

3 if anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with **sound words**, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

4 he is conceited and understands nothing;

- The key to all biblical teaching is to impart the truth.
- What is truth?

Definition:

1. Truth is what is.

2. Truth is the actual state of things.

3. Truth is absolute.

4. Truth is objective.

5. Truth divides.

6. Truth is offensive.

7. Truth is universal and eternal.

8. Truth is dependent on nothing.

9. Truth is authoritative.

10. Truth cannot increase in quality.

11. Truth is exclusive and does not compromise.

12. Truth is not a feeling, emotion, thought, or opinion.

13. Truth is consistent and unchanging.

14. Truth demands commitment.

15. Truth is intolerant.

3 John 4

4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the **truth**.

Ps 115:1

1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us,
But to Your name give glory

Because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your **truth**.

Ps 40:10

10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart;

I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;

I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your **truth** from the great congregation.

Jn 17:17

17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is **truth**.

The Source of all Truth:

1. God is Truth.

Ps 31:5

5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit;
You have ransomed me, O LORD, **God of truth**.

2. Jesus Christ is Truth.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 1:14

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17

17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Eph 4:21

21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 80 times Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. . . "

3. The Holy Spirit is Truth.

1 John 5:6

6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because **the Spirit is the truth**.

John 14:17

17 That is the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 15:26

26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

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"**goads**" – long wooden rods with an iron point used for driving sheep, oxen and other animals. Used to motivate. Wise words "afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted."

"**well-driven nails**" Nails are used to secure 2 boards together. They provide stability to a house.

- If you are comfortable with your life, God's Word acts as a **goad** to move you out of your comfort zone. It pushes you to do those things you ought to do.
- If you are house is shaky and tossed to and fro by the winds of life, God's Word acts as **well driven nails** to provide a fortress of stability for your life.

"**one shepherd**" – these words come straight from God. He is the source of the words of the Bible.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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Matt 22:35-40

- 35 . . . a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,
- 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"
- 37 And He said to him, " YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."
- 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.
- 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'
- 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

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- This is a warning!
- Be careful of your sources. All does not come from the one Shepherd. Only one book – the Bible.
- Man loves to learn, he just chooses the wrong sources – the writings of men.
- Look at the history of philosophy.
- Origins of the universe, Big Bang, evolution, theistic evolution, Gap Theory.
- "Under the sun" produces nothing new. Must come from an alien source. Therefore - "I'm reading a Book that is out of this world."
- Barnes and Noble and public libraries can wear you out.
- Mastery of these books is far different from mastery of THE book.
- "We grow addicted to research itself, in love with our own hard questions. An answer would spoil everything." (Kidner)

John 21:25

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

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- Here it is – the summary and conclusion.
- All of what Solomon has said in Ecclesiastes, he now puts into 6 words –
- **"FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS"**
- It took a thousand words for Solomon to explain the vanity of human thought and effort. It took him only six words to explain the finality and completeness that comes from trusting and of obeying God.

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- "Fear God" in a world that could care less.

"It is one of the defining marks of our time that God is now weightless. I do not mean by that that He is ethereal, but rather that He has become unimportant. He rests upon the world so inconsequentially, as not even to be noticed. He has lost His saliency for human life. Those who assure the pollsters of their belief in God's existence may, nonetheless, consider Him less interesting than television; His commands less authoritative than their appetites for affluence and influence; His judgments no more awe inspiring than the evening news; and His truth less compelling than the advertiser's sweet fog of flattery and lies."

- David Wells

- **The Bible speaks** of our love to God, His name, His law, and His Word, a total of 88 times.
- **The Bible speaks** of our trusting in God, His name, and His Word, 91 times.
- **The Bible speaks** of the fear of God 278 times - His name, His Law, or His Word.

Top 5 fears people have:

1. Not saving enough for retirement.
2. Dying before the children are grown.
3. High gas prices.
4. The threat of terrorism.
5. Speeding traffic.

It seems that we fear everything and everyone but God.

- Oswald Chambers said, "The remarkable thing about fearing God is that, when you fear God, you fear nothing else; whereas, if you do not fear God, you fear everything else."

Isa 66:1-2

1 Thus says the Lord,

"Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool.

Where then is a house you could build for Me?

And where is a place that I may rest?

2 "For My hand made all these things,

Thus all these things came into being," declares the Lord.

"But to this one I will look,

To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who **trembles at My word.**

*** You know you fear God when you tremble at His word.**

Eccl 12:6-14

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Rom 2:16

16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

1 Cor 4:5

5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

- Those who know God through His Son have forgiveness of all that they have done and will not appear at the Great White Throne Judgment.
- Those who do not know Him . . .

"Grant, O LORD, that we may

live in Thy fear;

die in Thy favor;

rest in Thy peace;

rise in Thy power;

reign in Thy glory

for Thine own beloved Son's sake,

Jesus Christ, our Lord." Amen."

- William Laud (1573-1645)