

# Sermon Outline

“ARE YOU READY TO MEET YOUR MAKER AND YOUR JUDGE?” | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:14

“Chasing after the wind”	
1. Meaningless, meaningless, utterly meaningless, everything is meaningless	1:1-2:26
2. A time for everything	3:1-4:16
3. Draw near to God ...	5:1-6:12
4. Better to go to a funeral than a wedding	7:1-8:1
5. Where can I find a wise king?	8:2-17
6. Are you ready to meet your maker and your judge?	9:1-12:14

Ecc 1:2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

Ecc 12:8 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Everything is meaningless!”

=> “meaningless” ≠ futile/pointless/worthless = fleeting/fading/passing away

3 interpretive keys in Ecclesiastes:

- the passage of time (eg 1:3-11)
- the inevitability of death (eg 11:7-12:9)
- the reality of judgment (eg 12:9-14)

## 1. Remember your creator (in the days of your youth) (11:7-12:8)

Q. Why does the Teacher emphasize God as creator (not judge)?

Ecc 2:24 A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, 25 for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?

Ecc 3:12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Q. How do we talk with unbelievers about our creator God’s goodness to us?

1 Thess 5:16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

## 2. Fear God and keep his commandments (for He will bring every deed into judgment) (12:9-14)

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This life is everything (YOLO) This life is nothing (why bother trying)

Mt 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Q. Why is God’s judgment good?

Acts 10:39 “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. 41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Rom 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration [ , not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Q. How do you feel about the coming judgment?

Col 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

### What I’ve learned (and my response) ...

*Ecc 5:2 Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.*