

## CONCLUDING ECCLESIASTES: A WISE FATHER SPEAKS TO HIS SON Ecclesiastes 12:8-14

Series: "Chasing After" (Ecclesiastes)

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

At the end of Ecclesiastes, the editor gives some concluding remarks that are the key to understanding the book. In verse 12, the editor says two words that reveal his purpose for writing: "...my son." We discover that the book was written by a wise father persuading his son to avoid the meaningless pursuits of this life and pursue God instead.

### **I. SCRIPTURE: ECCLESIASTES 12:8-14**

***8 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless!"***

After summarizing the book in verse 8, in verses 9-12 the editor tells his son that Solomon did his best to give us words of wisdom. His words were true and thought provoking (if you take them in context, that they were written by a skeptic who was only looking at life "under the sun").

***13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.***

***14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.***

### **II. APPLICATION**

**The Lesson:** A wise father will train his child to fear God and keep His commandments. Why? Because, according to Ecclesiastes, everything else is meaningless. Nothing else has eternal significance.

[Eph 6:4 NIV] 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Four things a dad must do to train his child to fear and obey God.

### **A. CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD.**

The editor of Ecclesiastes was making an attempt to connect relationally with his son. We don't know if he succeeded, but we know he tried.

We'll never convince our child to pursue a relationship with God if we don't pursue a relationship with our child. Their natural view of God is derived from their view of their earthly father.

### **B. TEACH YOUR CHILD THE WORD OF GOD (BIBLE).**

They cannot obey what they do not know.

[Deu 6:6-9 NIV] 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

### **C. PROVIDE APPROPRIATE CONSEQUENCES.**

It's not enough just to teach the commands. Every child has sin nature and will naturally rebel. A loving father has to train his children to obey.

Pr.13:24 (NLT) ... Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.

This father in Ecclesiastes tells his son, "Judgment is coming." A wise father trains his child to expect to reap what they sow. He does this by providing appropriate consequences for their misbehavior.

Resources:

- Right Now Media (<https://www.rightnow.org/Library/>) : Check out Matt Chandler "It Starts at Home" or Chip Ingram "Effective Parenting in a Defective World" (Note: Contact the church if you have not yet become a member of RNM. Membership is free through the church.)

- [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com) by Foster Cline

#### **D. EXEMPLIFY INTEGRITY**

Kids learn more by watching than listening. If we want them to believe that God will judge even what is done in secret, we must believe it and practice it ourselves.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The editor of Ecclesiastes wanted his son to fear God and keep His commandments because judgment is coming. But there's a deeper reason Christian dads teach their kids the commands of God. We do it to prepare their hearts for the Gospel.

Any person who sincerely attempts to obey the commands of God will come up short. No one can live up to God's perfect standard. We conclude it can't be done. How can I stand before God and give account for all I've done? I'm doomed!

But One greater than Solomon came, Jesus Christ, the only One who fulfilled the law and lived a sinless life. But instead of casting judgment on us, He went to the cross and died a sinner's death so we could be forgiven and set free.

[Rom 3:20-26 NIV] 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. 21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Because of Jesus we are not under the law but under grace.

So in this New Testament era, there's one other thing a Christian dad must do for his kids:

**LEAD THEM TO JESUS.**