

How to Spend Your Life

Ecclesiastes 11:9a (HCSB) Rejoice, young man, while you are young,
and let your heart be glad...

Text: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:2	South Orlando Baptist Church
Topics: Maturity, Obedience	June 7, 2015
Supplemental Passages: See below:	Dr. David Crowe

Solomon's wisdom for a fulfilling life requires you to...

1) Rejoice in your _____ (vs. 11:9a)

If you are young, go on, enjoy your youth and vitality. Satisfy your heart's desires in intelligent pleasure. Be as carefree as you can. But remember that youth does not last, and that God will judge you for the way you have used these years (9–10).¹

"Cheerfulness, here, is not merely permitted; it is commanded, and represented as an essential element of piety" (Hengstenberg).²

2) Reflect on the coming _____ (vs. 11:9b)

"The two terms seem to cancel out the other. How can this be explained? Enjoy life but do not commit iniquity. The balance that is called for insures that enjoyment is not reckless, sinful abandonment. Pleasure is experienced in faith and obedience, for as Solomon has said repeatedly, one can only receive true satisfaction as a gift from God." – John MacArthur

3) Remove _____ from your heart (vs. 11:10)

This means to "remove from your life the sins that cause sorrow" – Warren Wiersbe.

4) Remember your _____ (vs. 12:1-2)

"Real men do live for Christ," he said. "It is important to make your peace with Christ while the opportunity exists. Life is so fragile that you never know when it's going to be over. It could be over in the blink of an eye, and then it's too late to accept God's gift of salvation." – Chuck Norris

¹ Stuart Olyott, *A Life Worth Living and a Lord Worth Loving*, Welwyn Commentary Series (Darlington, England: Evangelical Press, 1983), 62.

Hengstenberg *Commentary on Ecclesiastes* by E. W. Hengstenberg, 1869.

² Michael A. Eaton, *Ecclesiastes: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 18, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1983), 165.

Questions for Application

1. What advice did Solomon have for the young? (11:9)
2. When should we take pains to remember our Creator? (12:1)
3. How did Solomon describe old age? (12:2-5)
4. How did Solomon symbolize death? (12:6-7)
5. What did Solomon conclude is meaningless? (12:8)
6. How do the uncertainties of the future make you feel?
7. How should we live in light of the uncertainties of the future?
8. What prevents you from taking calculated risks in life?
9. Why is it important to establish a relationship with God when we are young?
10. In what way is it easy to forget our Creator?
11. What can we do to keep our accountability to God in mind?
12. Why is it easier to enjoy life when we are young than when we become old?
13. How does the reality of aging affect you?
14. How should we live our life in light of the reality of death?
15. In what sense is life meaningless?
16. How should we respond to the seemingly meaningless aspects of life?
17. What first step can you take to pursue an opportunity that you have put off?
18. What is something you can do this week to remind yourself of God's place in your life?
19. Whether young or old what is something you will do today to enjoy the life God has given you?