

FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS
ECCLESIASTES 12:9-14
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The Proverbial Preacher vs. 9-11

1. The Preacher taught the people knowledge
 - a. Knowledge: *“an experiential, covenantal grasp of truth that unites correct information with relational loyalty.”*
 - b. Proverbs: practical wisdom to navigate the complexities of life.
2. Engaging his own soul through
 - a. Weighing
 - b. Studying
 - c. Arranging
 - d. Example: Ezra 7:10
3. Wise words that were...
 - a. Delightful
 - b. True
4. *“The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings;”*
 - a. Goads
 - b. Nails
5. Given by One Shepherd

The Pastoral Charge vs. 12-14

1. Wisdom comes from God
2. God is our Shepherd
 - a. Psalm 23
 - b. Psalm 28
 - c. Psalm 80
 - d. Isaiah 40
3. We are God's children
4. The Final Charge:
 - a. Fear God
 - i. "the affectionate reverence, by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father's law."
-Charles Bridges-
 - ii. "The fear of God is the soul of godliness." -John Murray-
 - b. Keep His Commandments
5. Nothing is hidden from God
 - a. The foreboding of coming judgment is meant to push us to Christ.
 - b. Because Jesus is our Shepherd, we no longer need fear judgment.
 - i. John 5
 - ii. John 10
 - iii. To live is Christ, to die is gain.

Questions for Discussion:

1. How has the study of God's Word recently helped you navigate life?
2. Wise Words are delightful and true. Do you delight in God's Word?
3. How has God's Word been a goad in your life?
4. How has God's Word been like firmly fixed nails in your life?
5. In what ways has God been speaking to you through Ecclesiastes?
6. Is there anything God wants you to stop believing or start believing?
7. Is there anything God wants you to start doing or stop doing?
8. Do you fear God and strive to obey him? Pray and ask God to help you obey.
9. Is your chief aim in life to please God? Pray and ask God to strengthen you.
10. What is a practical area in your life where you know you'd experience more blessing from God if you truly learned to trust and obey?