

# Ecclesiastes

REJOICE WHILE  
REMEMBERING

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CHAPTER 11:7 – 11:10

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Pastor James Russel Miller wrote:

- “The **important practical question is, *How can we so live that our old age, when it comes, shall be beautiful and happy?*** It will not do to adjourn this question until the evening shadows are upon us. It will be too late to consider it. Consciously or unconsciously, **we are every day helping to settle the question whether our old age shall be sweet and peaceful, or bitter and wretched.**”

- Pastor James Russel Miller wrote:
- “We are every day **laying up the food** on which we must feed in the closing years. We are **hanging pictures about the walls of our hearts** that we shall have to look at when we sit in the shadows. How important that we live pure and holy lives! **Even forgiven sins will mar the peace of old age**, for the ugly scars will remain.”
- Ecclesiastes 7:1 **A good name is better** than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one’s birth.

# Concluding Poem – 11:7-12:8

- Introduction: 11:7-11:8  
Part One: Rejoice, 11:9-10  
Part Two: Remember, 12:1-8
- The driving admonition of this poem is a call to **make the most out of God's gift of life** as we live in this frustratingly puzzling world – a world that is fallen and broken, yet still filled with God's beauty.

## *Rejoice while Remembering*

- Ecclesiastes 11:7–8 Truly the light is sweet, And *it is* pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; <sup>8</sup> But if a man lives many years *and* **rejoices in them all**, Yet **let him remember** the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming *is* vanity.



**A. Rejoice in God's GIFT of LIFE.**



- Ecclesiastes 11:9–10 **Rejoice**, O young man, in your youth, And **let your heart cheer you** in the days of your youth; **Walk in the ways of your heart**, And **in the sight of your eyes**; **But know** that for all these **God will bring you into judgment.** <sup>10</sup> Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth *are* vanity.

# 1. Enjoying God's gift is not optional, it is commanded.

- **McCabe's Translation:** 11:9 Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and **let your heart give you joy** in the days of your youth. **Follow the impulses of your heart** and **the desires of your eyes**, But know that for all these things **God will bring you into judgment**



- Psalm 119:68 *You are good, and do good*;  
Teach me Your statutes.
- Psalm 125:4 Do good, O LORD, *to those who are good*, And to *those who are* upright in their hearts

## A. Rejoice in God's GIFT of LIFE.

### 1. Enjoying God's gift is not optional, it is commanded.

- 11:9 Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. **Follow the impulses of your heart** and **the desires of your eyes**,
- Psalm 37:4 **Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart**

## A. Rejoice in God's GIFT of LIFE.

### 2. Failure to Enjoy God's gift brings certain judgment.

- McCabe's Trans: . . . But know that for all these things **God will bring you into judgment.**<sup>10</sup> So, **remove vexation** from your heart and put away the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are frustratingly enigmatic,



- Deuteronomy 28:45 “Moreover **all these curses shall come upon you** and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, **because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God**, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.
- Deuteronomy 28:47 “**Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart**, for the abundance of everything.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 **Rejoice always**,<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing,<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for **this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**
- Philippians 4:4 **Rejoice in the Lord always.** Again I will say, **rejoice!**
- Philippians 4:6 **Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

- Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, **whatever things are true**, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* **pure**, whatever things *are* **lovely**, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and **if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.**