



## 5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

# I Once Was Young & Now I'm Old

Solomon, the wisest man in the world said,

*“<sup>12</sup>So I decided to compare wisdom with foolishness and madness (for who can do this better than I, the king?). <sup>13</sup>I thought, ‘Wisdom is better than foolishness, just as light is better than darkness. <sup>14</sup>For the wise can see where they are going, but fools walk in the dark.’ Yet I saw that the wise and the foolish share the same fate. <sup>15</sup>Both will die. So I said to myself, ‘Since I will end up the same as the fool, what’s the value of all my wisdom? This is all so meaningless!’ <sup>16</sup>For the wise and the foolish both die. The wise will not be remembered any longer than the fool. In the days to come, both will be forgotten.*

*<sup>17</sup>So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind.”*  
(Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 NLT)

*“<sup>1</sup>Don’t let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, ‘Life is not pleasant anymore.’ <sup>2</sup>Remember him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky. <sup>3</sup>Remember him before your legs—the guards of your house—start to tremble; and before your shoulders—the strong men—stoop. Remember him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly.*

*<sup>4</sup>Remember him before the door to life’s opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint.*

*<sup>5</sup>Remember him before you become fearful of falling and worry about danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and the caperberry no longer inspires sexual desire. Remember him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral.*

<sup>6</sup>Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. <sup>7</sup>For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 NLT)

<sup>13</sup>That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. <sup>14</sup>God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NLT)

Later the Apostle Paul gave much of the same instruction that Solomon did: Men should repent, because God has set a day in which mankind will be judged.

<sup>24</sup>Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla. She was a Jew. Felix sent for Paul and listened to him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup>Paul talked about how to live right. He talked about how people should control themselves. He also talked about the time when God will judge everyone. Then Felix became afraid. "That's enough for now!" he said. "You may leave..." (Acts 24:24-25 NIV)

On Mars Hill the Apostle Paul gave these further instructions,

<sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31 New Revised Standard Version)  
(See also Psalm 9:8; 96:13; 98:9)

Or as 2 Corinthians 5:10-11 states,

<sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be repaid according to the things he has **practiced** while in the body, whether good or bad." (NWT)

The Message Bible states,

"...It's no light thing to know that we'll all one day stand in that place of Judgment. That's why we work urgently with everyone we meet to get them ready to face God." (2 Corinthians 5:11 The Message Bible)

## Questions

- 1 What will save us from God's wrath and Judgment?
- 2 What did God do to save us?
- 3 Grey hair is a crown of glory if...?
- 4 If we live out our lives, we are promised how many years of life?
- 5 What should we declare to the next generation?
- 6 Even in our old age we can serve God.

True or False

### **We want to hear from you!**

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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## Answer Key

**1** What will save us from God's wrath and Judgment?

**The Blood of Jesus.**

*"Therefore, since we are now justified (acquitted, made righteous, and brought into right relationship with God) by Christ's blood, how much more [certain is it that] we shall be saved by Him from the indignation and wrath of God."* (Romans 5:9 Amplified Bible)

**2** What did God do to save us?

*"<sup>9</sup>For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. <sup>10</sup>Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever."* (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 New Living Translation)

**3** Grey hair is a crown of glory if...?

*"The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness."* (Proverbs 16:31 NKJV)

**4** If we live out our lives, we are promised how many years of life?

*"Our lifetime is seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. But the years are full of hard work and pain. They pass quickly, and then we are gone."* (Psalm 90:10 NCV)

**5** What should we declare to the next generation?

*"Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me."* (Psalm 71:18 NLT)

**6** Even in our old age we can serve God.

**True**

*"and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day."* (Luke 2:37 NKJV)