

life is short.

A Study from Ecclesiastes

Sunday, November 25, 2018 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 7: THE END OF THE MATTER

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

The sooner you **TURN TO** Jesus the better

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Don't forget your Creator...

Psalm 100:3; 2 Peter 1:12-15; Deuteronomy 8:1-3; 10-18

*When God tells us to "remember" it is **always** with view toward the present and the future.*

Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your heart...

Psalm 95:7-8; Hebrews 13:7-11, 15; 4:1-7

—and not just with your **HEAD**,

Ecclesiastes 12:9-12

It *is* important to know/believe the right things...

1 Timothy 6:3-5

...but knowledge alone isn't enough.

John 5:39-40

but with your **HEART!**

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

John 14:15ff; John 6:29

Matthew 22:36-40

1:10 COMMUNITY GROUP **HOMEWORK**

GETTING STARTED

1. Max Lucado begins his book *Just Like Jesus* with this powerful challenge:

What if, for one day, Jesus were to become you?

What if, for twenty-four hours, Jesus wakes up in your bed, walks in your shoes, lives in your house, assumes your schedule? Your boss becomes his boss, your mother becomes his mother, your pains become his pains? With one exception, nothing about your life changes. Your health doesn't change. Your circumstances don't change. Your schedule isn't altered. Your problems aren't solved. Only one change occurs.

What if, for one day and one night, Jesus lives your life with his heart? Your heart gets the day off, and your life is led by the heart of Christ. His priorities govern your actions. His passions drive your decisions. His love directs your behavior.¹

Now, in your group, answer this question: What would you be like?

2. **Read Ecclesiastes 12.** Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Open your bible to **1 John 2:6** and copy it down in the space below:
4. Underline or circle the two or three words you think are the most important. Why did you choose those?
5. In **1 John 2:6** the word translated "walk" is the Greek word *peripateo*. It is used in the New Testament to mean "following, making progress, regulating one's life, or conducting oneself" after the pattern of another person. To walk like Jesus, then, means that we are to emulate the pattern of living that Jesus modeled for us. As best you can, describe what you believe it means to "walk as Jesus walked."
6. Look closely at the context of **1 John 2:1–10**. Read it aloud. What do you think was on John's mind when he commanded us to walk as Jesus walked?
7. In what ways do you think it's possible to walk as Jesus walked? In what areas do you think it's impossible to walk as Jesus walked?

UP CLOSE

8. In his message Pastor Josh said we must turn to Jesus not just in our head but with our hearts. **Read John 14:15.** What does Jesus say that it means to turn to him with our hearts?
9. How is it possible to obey Jesus? (*Jesus gives us a clue in his words following John 14:15...*)
10. **Read John 6:29 and Matt. 22:36-40.** How do these passages summarize God's commands?

For more get a copy of "Walking as Jesus Walked" by Dann Spader. Some of these questions are from this book. Dann L. Spader, *Walking as Jesus Walked: Making Disciples the Way Jesus Did* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2011).

¹ Max Lucado, *Just Like Jesus* (Nashville: W Publishing Group, 1998), 1–2.

Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them 1:10 Community Groups (the "1:10" comes from Colossians 1:10). The questions here are based on the sermon each week, and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a 1:10 Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

*During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.
Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.*

Neighboring Church

Pray this week for the ministry and people and pastors of Vineyard Community Church in Syracuse.

Personal Prayer Items

Word Find for Ecclesiastes 12:8-13 (NLT)

*Find the words **bolded** below.*

⁸ **“Everything** is meaningless,” says the **Teacher**, **“completely meaningless.”** ⁹ **Keep** this in **mind**: The **Teacher** was **considered** wise, and he **taught** the **people everything** he **knew**. He **listened carefully** to **many proverbs**, **studying** and **classifying** them.

¹⁰ The **Teacher** **sought** to **find just** the **right** words to **express truths clearly**.

¹¹ The words of the wise are **like cattle prods—painful** but **helpful**. Their **collected sayings** are **like** a nail-studded **stick** with which a **shepherd drives** the **sheep**. ¹² But, my **child**, let me give you some further advice: Be **careful**, for writing books is endless, and much **study** wears you out. ¹³ That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this

is everyone's duty.

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