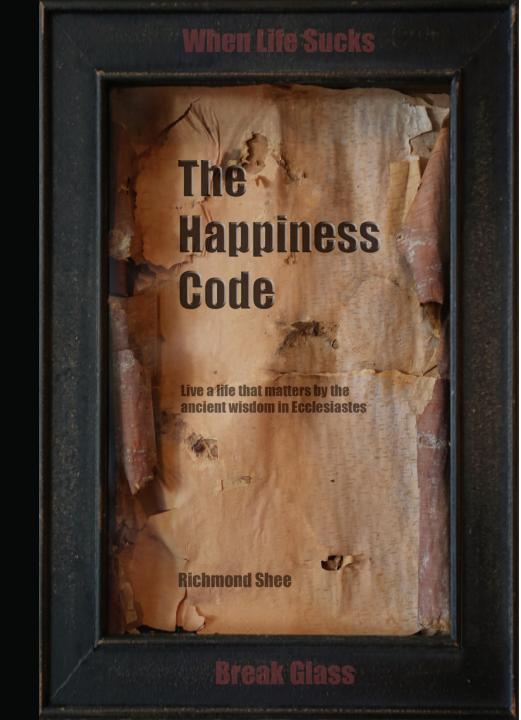
The Happiness Code

Week 18 – Live Out Your Calling (Part 3 Final)

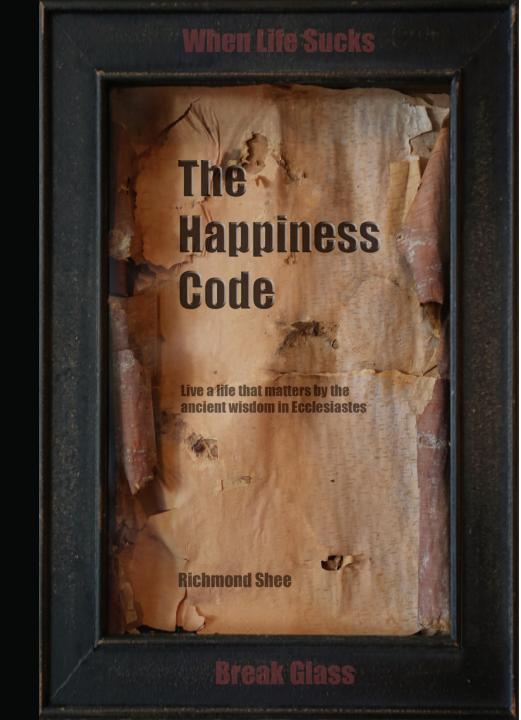
Ecclesiastes 12:8-14



Week #17: Level Set

Imagine hearing these words when you stand before the Lord, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Now imagine hearing these words, "Thou wicked and slothful servant."



Ecc 12:2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: (3) In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,



Prophesy of 2nd Coming

- An imminent terrifying day of darkness.
- Joel 2:1-11, 31
- Joel 3:14-16
- Zeph 1:14-17
- "clouds return after the rain" refers to the "latter rain," which signifies the end of the Great Tribulation and the second coming of the Lord.
- Jas 5:7, Pr 16:15

Ecc 12:4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low; (5) Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:



Prophesy of 2nd Coming

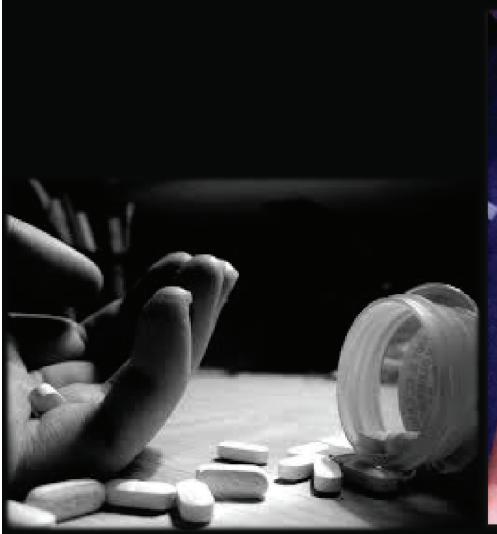
- Who is "he" in verse 4?
- People are fearful of what is coming down from on high.
- Zechariah 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.
- The time of the second coming of Christ may be in the early spring, when the almond trees flourish. Coincides with "latter rain" – Joel 2:23.

Ecc 12:8 Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.

- We have come full circle.
- God's words are the same in the beginning and in the end.
- This world is the vanity of vanities.
- It has no real happiness and nothing to satisfy the soul.
- It is vanity of the worst kind in disguise.



What is it like to experience vanity of the worst kind?









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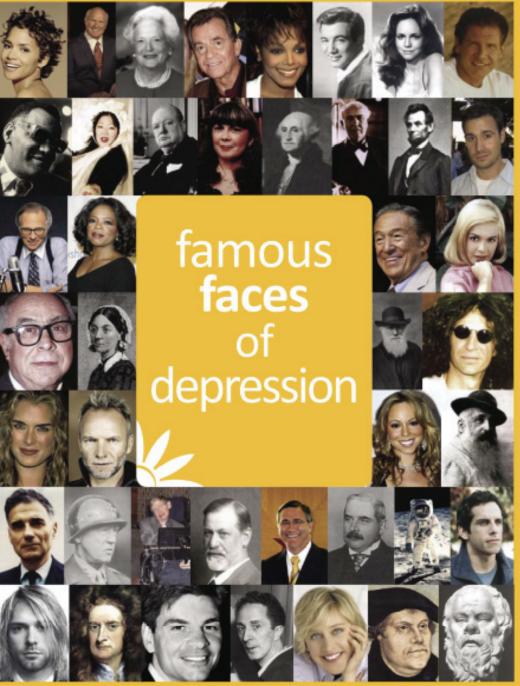


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Ecc 12:9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.



• Solomon as a royal preacher, a faithful and diligent teacher (rabbi), an author, and a king who disregarded his kingship, is a type of Christ.

 Solomon as a repentant preacher, did not let his past sins prevent him from exercising his gifts and fulfilling his duty to God.

• Solomon worked hard to set in order many proverbs.

Ecc 12:9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

- An investment in the word of God is the best investment, as it continues to educate and transform people long after we are gone.
- Solomon died around 931 B.C. and continues to teach people.



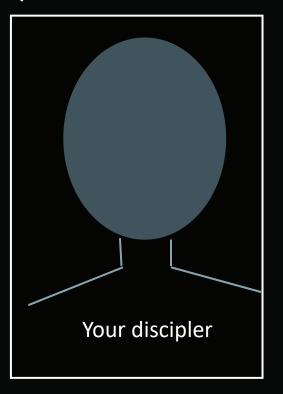
Charles Spurgeon



D.L. Moody



G. Campbell Morgan



Ecc 12:10 The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. (11) The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. (12) And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Outline:

- Written words verse 10.
- Functional words verse 11.
- Beneficial words verse 12.

Ecc 12:10 The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.



- Acceptable words are the written words of truth.
- Happiness is framed by the written word of God. Ecclesiastes begins and ends with the word.
- There is no happiness outside of the written word of God, which was personified by Jesus Christ.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- True happiness lies in a personal relationship with the Christ of Christianity, and not in a religion or a religious banner.

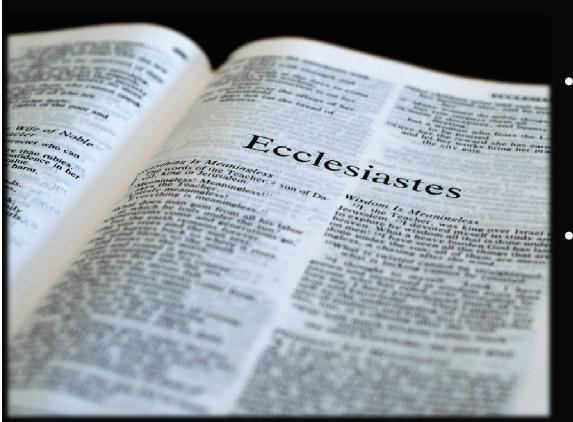
Ecc 12:11 The words of the wise are as goads, and as <u>nails</u> fastened by the <u>masters of assemblies</u>, which are given from one <u>shepherd</u>.



- The written words are functional words of wisdom.
- Function as goads that drive and urge us forward to duty.
- Function as stakes that fasten us to the foundation (Jesus Christ) and to the body of Christ (the church), that we may interoperate with other believers. 1Cor 3:11, Eph 4:16
- God supplies masters of assemblies to help build up and mature the body of Christ. Eph 4:11-15
- The written words emanate from one Shepherd, who is Jesus Christ. Jo 10:14



Ecc 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.



- The written words are beneficial words of admonition, affectionately addressed to "my son."
- The book of Ecclesiastes is divinely inspired and is the definitive book on happiness. By it, we clearly see this world for what it really is—vanity of vanities.
- There is no need to write new books or conduct new studies on happiness. The book of Ecclesiastes is all that we need to live a happy life under the sun.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:



- To hear the conclusion of the matter concerning the true happiness of mankind, and the answer to, "What was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life?"
- To hear attentively, to receive whole heartedly, and to obey willingly...
- Proverbs 4:10a Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings. Proverbs 23:19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.
- Solomon paid dearly to give us this conclusion, and we must not file it away and do nothing about it.

FEAR GOD

and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV)

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God, and keep his commandments:

for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Conclusion	To be happy is to fear God, and keep His commandments.
Commandment	 Learn to fear God first. Not crippling fear, but fear that prevents us from living for self, moves us to depart from evil, and keep His commandments and fulfill our duty to Him. (The written words are as goads.)
Consequences (eternal)	 Improper fear of God results in an imperfect duty with eternal consequences.
	 One chance—one lifetime and one platform (the world) to demonstrate our gratitude for His great salvation and our obedience to His commandments.

Must I go, and empty-handed

Must I go, and empty-handed, Thus my dear Redeemer meet? Not one day of service give Him, Lay no trophy at His feet?

Chorus:

Must I go, and empty-handed?
Must I meet my Savior so?
Not one soul with which to greet Him:
Must I empty-handed go?

Not at death I shrink nor falter,
For my Savior saves me now;
But to meet Him empty-handed,
Thought of that now clouds my brow.

O the years in sinning wasted; Could I but recall them now, I would give them to my Savior, To His will I'd gladly bow.

O ye saints, arouse, be earnest, Up and work while yet 'tis day; Ere the night of death o'ertake thee, Strive for souls while still you may.



You have been illuminated to these truths:

- 1. This world is the vanity of vanities.
- 2. An investment in the word of God is the best investment, as it continues to educate and transform people long after we are gone
- 3. There is no happiness outside of the written word of God.
- 4. Our duty is to fear God, and keep His commandments.

Notes:

- The key to hearing the praise of God is to live out our calling. This life is a 70-year boot camp that prepares us to meet our Savior at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Let us not faint in the work of ministry and let us bring in the sheaves to meet Him.
- Please submit your questions and feedback to TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com