

## **Remember Your Creator** **Ecclesiastes 12:1-7,13-14; John 4:19-24**

### 0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Quite the journey! – From “all is meaningless/empty” to “remember your Creator”
- 0.2 Cynical wisdom: life-affirming, but taking *back door* approach + balance/realism
- 0.3 Again (v.13): end of the discussion, all heard – now remember/fear God – but how?

### 1.0 Remember Your Creator in Your Ways

- 1.1 We help ourselves remember things in various ways, incl: repetition of thought & habit
- 1.2 *All* activities & involvements, from routines to employment (I Cor.10:31) → God
- 1.3 Fruitful labor a gift from God (3:13) – as is enjoyment of the benefits (5:19)
- 1.4 *All* of life matters, and is being subtly redeemed

### 2.0 Remember Your Creator in Your Words

- 2.1 Some words are directed to God – prayer is both private & public
- 2.2 Life can progress with appreciation (I Thess.5:16-18)
- 2.3 Review & reflect on what is genuine and true (Jn.4:23-24)
- 2.4 Wisdom is best rooted in reverence (Prov.1:7)

### 3.0 Remember Your Creator in Your Works (of Love)

- 3.1 To overcome meaningless cycles: engagement & enjoyment ‘in its time & place’ (Ecc.3)
- 3.2 We were *designed* to serve: God & others (Eph.2:10; Titus 2:10)
- 3.3 “God is not so unjust as to forget your work & love in his name” (Heb.6:10)
- 3.4 Loving activities like “fragrant offering” to God (Phil.4:18)

### 4.0 Remember Your Creator ASAP

- 4.1 “In the days of your youth” (12:1)
- 4.2 Before health declines (vv.2-5) – metaphors incl. loss of hearing, sight, energy, desire
- 4.3 Aspects of incapacitation with age (vv.1c,6) → ‘circle of life’
- 4.4 “Know where you came from, where you are going, and before whom you are destined to give an account.” (Rabbi Aqiba ben Yosef, AD50-135)
- 4.5 May the God of your youth be your friend in old age.

*Next week (July 18) – Begin Summer Topical Sermons By Request*