

Hello. /We will begin the 13th lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /The message today is from Ecclesiastes 12. /The title of the chapter is “The Old Man.” /First, remember your Creator in the days of your youth. /Verses 1-2. /Second, the weakness of the human body. /Verses 3-5.

/Third, the end of life and vanity. /Verses 6-8. /Fourth, Solomon confirms the value of his words. /Verses 9-12. /Fifth, the duty of man and God’s judgment. /Verses 13-14.

/First, remember your Creator in the days of your youth. /Verses 1-2.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”;

/We must remember our Creator when we are young. /Days of **evil** are sure to come. /There will come a time when we have no pleasure. /The evil days are days of sadness and lamentation.

/When it says there will be no pleasure, the verse is talking about the days when we are old. /When the time of old age arrives, we will lack the willpower to do what we want. /Before this period comes, when we are young, we need to seek God our Creator and serve him.

/We need to remember God and seek him in the days of our youth. /Our memory is good when we are young. /Also, we have energy and the ability to do things well. /Believers, in the days of our youth, must learn the Bible /and pray frequently.

/We will become accustomed to this lifestyle, /so even with weakened bodies and the coming of days of hardship, we will be able to use what we have learned from the Bible. /Therefore we must remember God in our youth.

/What does it mean to remember? It means to reminisce about God. /We believers must not forget our Creator, but we must always have him in our hearts. /Chapter 12 is the conclusion of the book of Ecclesiastes.

/Ecclesiastes is the word of God that was recorded by Solomon in his old age. /Thinking over the wasted times of his youth and speaking through his experiences of faith, Solomon admonishes us to remember our Creator.

/We need to serve God when we are young, or we will regret not doing so when we are old. /If we serve God, we will not worry before the throne of God’s judgment. /What will happen if we stand ashamed in the presence of God?

/To receive the crown of glory when we stand before our Creator, we believers must keep our faith when we are young. /There is a time for us to study. /We must study hard when we are young.

/If we begin studying at an old age, we cannot remember the things we study. /Therefore there is a time for everything. /We must remember our Creator when God has given us the time to do so.

/There is a time to sow the seed. /We must plant the seed at the right time. /If we do not sow the seed when we should, we will not be able to reap anything. /Now is the time for us to plant the seed. /Psalm 126:5,6.

/If we pray and serve God in our youth, /there will come a day when we harvest with joy. /We must not lose the opportunity that God has given to us. We need to serve God well when we have the strength.

/Night surely falls on all of us. /Evil days will come. /A time of no pleasure is sure to come. /If we try to serve God during these times, it will be difficult for us. /As we grow older, we become weaker, and it becomes more difficult for us to pray.

/Before our strength fails us, in our youth, we must serve God. /Faith of the youth is a living faith. /The youth have faith that defeats the devil. /That is why 1 John tells us to have the faith of the youth. /The youth have strong faith.

/1 John 2:14 says, / “I write to you, children, /because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, /because you know him who is from the beginning. /I write to you, young men, because you are strong, /and the word of God abides in you, /and you have overcome the evil one.”

/The young men mentioned in the verse are believers who have life. /It is speaking about believers who have faith that is alive and at work. /These young men overcome the evil and powerful one. /Because this is true, we must have the faith of young men.

/We need to remember God in the days of our youth. /We must have a powerful faith as we serve God. /God’s word must be alive and at work in our faith.

/We need to have the faith of Joshua and Caleb. /Caleb entered the land of Canaan. /He was a spy at the age of 40. /Now, after 45 years, he was 85 years old. /It was at this time they divided the land of Canaan.

/Caleb made a request to Joshua. /He asked Joshua for the land occupied by the people of Anak. /Caleb had the faith of a young man.

/Joshua 14:11-12 read, / “I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said.”

/Thus we must be strong in our faith when we are young, before the evil days come.

/Verse 2. /before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain,

/The verse says, “Before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened.” / In our youth, the sun, light, moon, and stars shine brightly. /When we are young, our futures are bright. /There is hope. /The future is certain. /Hope overflows.

/Look at the faces of the elderly, and then look at the faces of the youth. Their faces are different. /If people live with those who are ill, they unknowingly begin acting like the ill. /If I am old but I hang around with young people, I also become young.

/There is an energy to the youth. /They are bright and pure like the sun, light, moon, and stars. /Before it becomes dark, before the light disappears, we must have a strong faith like Caleb did.

/A time is coming when our light will fade. /When that time comes, it will be hard to apply our faith even if we want to. /If we prepare our faith in the way Caleb did, we will have strength when we are old.

/Caleb is saying that his faith is the same now as it was 45 years ago. /The youth defeat the devil. /The faith of the youth is strong. /Therefore we need to have a strong faith as soldiers of the cross of Jesus Christ.

/I hope that you will grow and ready yourselves in faith before the sun, light, moon, and stars lose their light.

/Here, the verse also says, “Before... the clouds return after the rain.” /After the rain comes the sun. /But in this verse, when it says “the clouds return after the rain,” it is saying that there will be light for a while, but the clouds will return and bring the rain again.

/If the clouds form, rain will fall. /But there are brighter days after the rain. /Then the clouds come again. /And the rain comes. /Like this, life can change and be difficult, but it can also be peaceful.

/We need to prepare our faith when the days are clear. /If we do not, the rain clouds will come to us.

/James 4:14 says, / “Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. /What is your life? / For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” /Proverbs 27:1 says, / “Do not boast about tomorrow, /for you do not know what a day may bring.”

/We do not now what tomorrow will bring. /We do not know when we will leave this earth and enter heaven. /Because this is true, we must work hard to serve God when we have the time, strength, and possessions.

/Tomorrow is not my day, but it is God's day. /We cannot know what tomorrow holds.
/So we must be faithful today. /We need to prepare ourselves before hardship and suffering come.

/Second, the weakness of the human body. /Verses 3-5.

/Verse 3. /in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed,

/Why must we use our faith when we are young? Verse 3 explains the reason through the weakness of the human body. /First, the keepers of the house tremble. /Here, "keepers of the house" are human hands. /The one who protects the house will tremble.

/ "The day" is referring to the evil days as mentioned in 12:1. /It is a day of hardship, a day with no pleasure. /The hand that protects the body will tremble. /If we see the hands of the elderly, we can see that their hands tremble as they lift up spoons.

/Their hands and feet do not protect them. /That is why the elderly rely on canes to walk around. /Thus we must remember our Creator before we grow old. /Once we are old, we will not have the strength to support our own bodies.

/The verse makes another comparison to the body. /Second, the verse says that the strong men are bent. /This refers to the back and legs. /The back and legs are important parts for us people. /The back symbolizes strength.

/When it says the strong men are bent, it means that people have lost their strength. /Their backs and legs have lost their power.

/The back and legs must be strong for them to support the entire body. /Our legs must be strong for them to support our bodies. /We can only climb mountains and pray atop the mountains when our legs have strength.

/Also, our legs must have strength for us to be able to pray a lot. /Our legs must be strong in order for us to go out and work.

/Men have to plow the fields and do other work. /From where does their strength come? It comes from the back. /As we grow older, our backs start to bend.

/There comes a time when the backs of strong men start to curve. /Before the time comes, remember your Creator.

/Now, for the third comparison. /The verse says, "The grinders cease because they are few." /When it says that the grinders are few, it means that people have grown old and have lost their teeth. /When people grow old, they lose their teeth.

/For us to properly digest food, we must chew the food first with our teeth. /But as we age and our teeth become weak, it becomes harder for us to digest. /So please, believers! Remember your Creator in the days of your youth.

/Fourth, those who look through the windows are dimmed. /The “windows” here are the human eyes. /As we age, our eyes dim.

/That is why we wear glasses to see when we grow old. /There are some people who undergo cataract surgery to see better.

/Therefore we must actively read the Bible while our eyes are bright. /If our eyes become dim, it becomes difficult to read the Bible.

/Please remember that a day of no pleasure will come. /There will come a day when we will not be able to read the Bible with our dim eyes.

/Verse 4. /and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—

/We continue with an analogy to the weakness of the human body. /Fifth, the doors of the street are shut. /Here, the doors that are shut are the ears that have lost their hearing. /As we age, our ears lose their ability, making it harder for us to hear.

/Sixth, the sound of the grinding is low. /This too refers to teeth, as explained earlier.

/Seventh, one rises up at the sound of a bird. /When we are old, we wake up early to the sound of the birds. /This is evidence that we are old. /Old people do not sleep as much. /The day this happens is an evil day without any pleasure.

/Eighth, the daughters of song are brought low. /Even the most beautiful voices are brought low with age. /Therefore, when God has granted us a beautiful voice, we must sing praises to God.

/We need to actively sing praises to God. /Not too long ago, I climbed Mount Tae Baek and prayed there. /On the mountain, I wore a plastic cover and prayed all through the night. /As dawn approached, many hikers started to appear.

/When I woke up at dawn, I saw the clouds hovering at the foot of the mountain. It was beautiful. /In the East, the sun was rising. /The hikers who were there started shouting in awe of the sight. /Then, I climbed the rock where the hikers stood and evangelized.

/I said, “Look at the sun. God created the sun.” / “Please believe in Jesus and be saved!” I shouted as I evangelized to them. /Next, I loudly sang hymns. /The people gathered there said they also believed in Jesus and joined me in singing praises.

/I sang praises to God with my good voice. /However, when we grow old, we will lose our beautiful voices. /We need to actively praise God when God has given us our voices.

/Ninth, in verse 5, people are afraid of high places. /People start to fear heights as they get old. /Tenth, terrors are in the way. When we embark on a long journey, we begin to worry. /And eleventh, the almond tree blossoms. /One day, as I looked at myself, I saw that I had white hairs on my head.

/In this way, there will come a day when the almond tree blossoms. /Twelfth, the grasshopper drags itself along. /As people grow older, they start wearing lighter clothing as it becomes difficult to wear heavy clothes. /The verse also says that desires fail. /With age, we lose our enthusiasm and we lose our desire to eat. /

/As we age, we lose strength and the will to do things. /Now what is the result of all these things? Verse 5 says, “Man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets.”

/It is at this time that people die. /One day, we will lay down everything of this world and pass away. /Therefore before the day of death arrives, we must remember our Creator.

/1 Peter 1:24-25 say, / “for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. /The grass withers, and the flower falls, /but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.”

/Our bodies may be healthy and our faces may be beautiful, but everyone who ages becomes weak and sick. /Also, everyone dies. /The day of death is sure to come to everyone who lives.

/Beloved believers! /Before the day of evil, when there is no pleasure, comes, /let us remember our Creator.

/This concludes the 13th lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /Thank you.