

Recovering AWE

(aw) n. strong feeling of amazement

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, June 18/19, 2016 Ray Davis

Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8 “Finish Strong”

I want to awaken or stir-up in you the wonder and the weight of having only one life to live & then its outcome for all eternity with no 2nd chances.

To “Finish Strong” means that you are increasingly enjoying & displaying the riches of God’s Beauty & Glory above all other things in life in every area of your life (1Cor10:31; Eccl12:13; 2Cor4:16; Matt24:12-13; Pro4:18).

Heading toward the finish line of both his life and this book, Solomon as a remorseful burned out old man urges us to seek God while we are young and stick close to Him all the days of our life because apart from God life is meaningless (“vanity” 38xs).

YOU WILL FINISH STRONG WHEN YOU...

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Endow (invest) your life strategically: Anything of value in life doesn’t happen by chance but by choice through discipline over time. (Pro29:18; Jer29:11, 13; Ps34:8, 63:3)

Verses 11:7-8

Experience each day fully: Never take for granite the gift from God of living another day. No amount of regret can change the past. No amount of anxiety can change the future. But any amount of gratitude can change the present and help us to be fully present. (2Pet1:3; Eph5:20; 1Thess5:18)

Verses 11:9-10

Enjoy your youth honorably: Deal with your junk when you’re young and don’t add to it through folly because the older you get the more it will cost you. (Gal6:7-9; Hosea8:7; Heb12:16-17; Jer2:13; John10:10)

Ecclesiastes 12:1-2

Encounter God wholeheartedly: Christianity gives you a meaning in life that the worst suffering in this world can’t take and the greatest success in this world can’t give. (Jn 14:6, 17:3; Matt7:24-27; Rom8:28-30).

Verses 12:3-8

Embrace Your Age Gracefully: Pour your life into the next generation by showing them that Christ is more satisfying than all that life can give or suffering & death can take. (Pro16:31; Phil1:20-26; 2Cor1:24; Luke 12:13-21)

Growing Notes

- 1) What are your thoughts when you think of the wonder and weight of having only one life to live and then its outcome for all eternity with no second chances? What does it mean to “Finish Strong” (1Cor10:31; Eccl12:13; 2Cor4:16; Matt24:12-13; Pro4:18)?
- 2) Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8 and review the corresponding points and cross references. Which one(s) do you find most helpful in finishing strong? What does it mean that anything of value in life doesn’t happen by chance but by choice through discipline over time (1Cor9:24-27; 1Tim4:7-8)?
- 3) When do you know that you are taking for granite the gift from God of living another day (Eph5:20; 1Thess5:18)? Why is it important to deal with your junk when you’re young and not adding to it through folly (Gal6:7-9; Hosea8:7; Heb12:16-17; Jer2:13; John10:10)?
- 4) How does Christianity give us a meaning in life that the worst suffering in this world can't take and the greatest success in this world can't give (John 14:6, 17:3; Matt7:24-27; Rom8:28-30)? What are some ways you can pour your life into the next generation by showing them that Christ is more satisfying than all that life can give or suffering and death can take (Pro16:31; Phil1:20-26; 2Cor1:24; Luke 12:13-21)? What is God speaking to you through this study? Make it your prayer.