



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH

September 12, 2021 Fall Quarter Volume 40 Lesson 2
Grandparent's Day

THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *Ecclesiastes 12:1-14*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

Vanity is the emptiness of trying to be happy apart from God. Power, popularity, prestige, pleasure - nothing can fill the God shaped void in man's life but God Himself (*Ecclesiastes 12:11*).

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. Life without God, including youth and old age, is futile. *“For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD” (Proverbs 8:35).*
2. The believer should show diligence (constant effort) in Christian service now because this prepares him to work for God in the next world (*Psalms 100:1-5*).
3. Christians should carefully avoid all sins because the commission of one sin frequently leads to another. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).*
4. A Christian's life consists not in the abundance of worldly goods he possesses (*Luke 12:15*).
5. Standing firm for God no matter what the cost is the mark of true devotion to God (*I Corinthians 15:58*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

In his younger days King Solomon desired divine wisdom, sought instruction, accepted teaching and kept at it day in and day out. He had a reputation for wisdom, knowledge and understanding as granted by God (*I Kings 3:9-13*). But after his two wives turned him away from God, he substituted human wisdom for the wisdom that came from God and found nothing but emptiness, grief and sorrow. He did become more advanced in wisdom but all his searching into the wisdom of the world proved unsatisfying. So he decided to try pleasure, sponsoring great building projects; surrounding himself with slaves to wait on him; gathered great possessions and filled his treasures with silver and gold. Anything he desired he obtained.

LESSON SUMMARY:

King Solomon found that the end result of his pursuit of material goods, wealth and pleasure was just vanity—emptiness and striving after wind (*Ecclesiastes 12:8*); showing the frustrating nature of all of man's toil when God is left out. A man works hard but before he can enjoy the fruit of his labor he dies and leaves it all to heirs who spend it foolishly. Another works hard all of his life to build a reputation for wisdom and honor; he does one foolish thing and everyone forgets all his formal wisdom and only sees his foolishness.

The only solution is to recognize God as the source of all good things and learn to enjoy Him and what He gives. *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28)*. The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments (*Ecclesiastes 12:13*).

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