



# *Ecclesiastes 12:1-8*





*Meaningless*





# Chasing the Wind

*“This too is meaningless,  
a chasing after the wind.”*



# Mortality





# *Self-Assessment*

**Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true. The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.**

**v. 9-11**



# *Self-Assessment*

**Solomon tells us he wrote it all down**

**He wrote proverbs for wise living**

**He collected the things he had been told and wrote them down**

**We find out he is writing this book for his son**

**My guess is he is hoping his son reads his writings and it spares him the endless chase.**



# *Self-Assessment*

**Solomon warns there is always more to learn**

**Too much information is tiresome**

**That is why we as humans constantly try to chase the experiences of life in order to find meaning**

**That is why we end up never finding meaning**





# *His Conclusion*

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments,** for this is the duty of all mankind.

v.13

# *That's It!*



# *Fear God*

**I have heard this explained wrong so many times**

**We make God into a wimp**

**We like to say that word fear is about respecting  
God**

**The word here is be afraid, be very afraid**



# *Fear God*

**Solomon is an Old Testament writer he knows very little about the concept of Grace**

**He absolutely understands judgement**

**Remember his God is the God behind the curtain**

**For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.**

**v. 14**





# Why Fear?

**Fear is powerful (*Proverbs 1:7*)**

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

**Fear keeps us safe by providing boundaries**

**Fear motivates us when we do not understand the importance**

**Fear combats Desire**





# Jesus on Fear

**But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.**

**Luke 12:5**

**God is a loving God**

**But he is also a powerful God**

**No Fear leads to a worldly thought process.**

**To find the meaning of life you have to have a healthy fear of the Creator of Life**



# *Keep His Commandments*

**Solomon calls it the Duty of Mankind**

**Duty: a moral or legal obligation; a responsibility.**

**Sometimes that which is legal in the eyes of man is not moral in the commands of God**

**The words obligation and responsibility are means it's not an option**





# *Keep His Commandments*

**Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. ‘All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

**Matthew 22:37-40**



# *Keep His Commandments*

**Commit to the relationship with God with all I am**

**Be willing to show that commitment in the way I live  
that relationship in the present**

**Solomon's conclusion and Jesus' statement say it  
is designed by pursuit.**



*Chasing  
the Wind*

*Or Pursuing God?*





# Purpose of Life

A man in a plaid shirt and dark pants stands in a cemetery, looking at a gravestone. He is positioned to the right of the gravestone, which is a simple, upright, light-colored stone. The gravestone is surrounded by a low border of light-colored rocks. To the left of the gravestone is a large, ancient-looking tree with thick, gnarled branches that spread across the top of the frame. The ground is a mix of green grass and some yellow wildflowers. In the background, there is a line of trees under a pale, overcast sky.





*Chasing the Wind*