

Remember Your Creator in the Days of Your Youth

➤ Intro:

- **young, think will live long time** (forever), not expect to die, odds in your favor
- **death can come quickly** at any age
 - **illus.:** 9-2-06, 2:00 AM Saturday, 7 year old boy died in camper, limb fell on camper - **what were you doing**
- **Solomon:** 2nd king of Israel, David's son, wisest man to live (except Jesus), made many mistakes, learned hard way, shares his wisdom in Pr. and Ec.
 - **Will you listen and learn?** — or close up your heart and turn away from sin, like he did
- **Ec. 11:9-10** young, follow God and enjoy life, knowing he'll judge you — **childhood fleeting**
 - **sermon:** Solomon's instructions to the — **correct perspective of life**

➤ Remember your creator while you are young

- **Ec. 12:1a** formula for a happy and fulfilled life - **success** while young and then when old
- **Ec. 1:1-11** statement based on vanities already enumerated - **review and briefly explain**

➤ - What will you do, if you “remember” your “creator”?

- **God will be on your mind** every moment - 24/7/365
 - **illus.:** **child** who lost his mother — I think about her all the time — **God, Jesus, Lord's Supper, Creator, Cross**
 - **How badly do you want to see God?** — **like a child wants to see a deceased parent?**
 - **How badly do you want to be with Jesus?** — **like a child wants to be with a deceased parent?**
 - **How bad do you want to go to heaven?** — **like a child wants to be with a deceased parent?**
 - **1 Th. 5:16-18** pray without ceasing
 - **Josh. 1:8 illus.:** **God's word**, mouth, meditate, prosperous, success

➤ - Godly things will (therefore) always be on your mind

- **Col. 3:1-2** keep seeking the things above, set your mind on the things above

➤ - God will be considered in every decision you make — WWJD, e.g.

- **illus.:** **widow** making a decision — it's what he would want me to do - decision he would make
- Bible study / prayer

➤ - You will worship and glorify God in everything you do - as your Creator to whom you owe your life

- **Gal. 2:20** Christ, crucified, not longer I live, Christ lives in me, faith, Jesus loved me and gave self up — **a Christian's life is a living memorial**

➤2 - illus.:

tomb of the unknowns — dead memorial, **but we are a living memorial**

- **Rom. 12:1, 2b** present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, prove what the will of God is (**living memorial**)

➤ - Summary: If you remember your Creator, you will be a faithful Christian!

- **Don't wait till you are old to remember your Creator — obey and serve Him today!**
 - **Ec. 12:1-8** don't wait till you are old — **today could be your last day**
- - **Ec. 12:1b-8 allegorical**, represents old age, the progressive deterioration of age
 - **vs. 1** when you get old, the **days are evil**, you'll have no delight in them
 - **illus.: Roe, Tina, Louise**
- - **vs. 2** when you get old, **days are comparably gloomy and dark** — **pain, loneliness, sickness, loss of physical ability, not see the usefulness of life, want to die**
 - **illus.: grandmama**, wanted to go and be with God for several years, happy for her when she died
- - **vs. 3-4 life isn't fun** when you grow old, as it was when you were young
 - **illus.: in hospital**, nursing home, unable to drive, led around by others, not do what you want
- - **vs. 5** when you grow old you **won't be as strong and brave**
 - **illus.: weak and feeble**, mind not as sharp as before, afraid to go places alone, afraid to do new things
- - **vs. 6-7** when you are old, **life is fragile** - smallest thing can result in the end of life
 - **illus.: old person break hip**, often results in death — Pop
- - **vs. 8** when you get old, **life will be vain as compared to the days of your youth**
 - **if wasted the years of your youth** with sin, you will detest your old age when you have little physical and mental ability to work in the kingdom — **life so you'll have no regrets**
- - **Two things you should know:**
 - **Ps. 90:12** you must **learn to number your days**, or you will waste them
- - **Heb. 9:27** **the day will come when it's too late** to obey God
 - **illus.: death, incapacitated**
 - **first time helped mother who lost child**, chaplain, hospital
 - **man, hospital, congestive heart failure**, couldn't talk because on respirator, called in as chaplain on call, son wanted be to make sure he was saved, nothing I could do
 - **man, hospital, kidney failure**, in coma, wanted to be saved, never regained consciousness and died, nothing I could do
 - **illus.: called to sacrifice your life without notice, no more chances to obey God**
 - **Detroit, father gave life to save daughter**, Detroit Free Press (11-19-00)
 - David Saunders (42 years old), 4-year-old daughter named Danielle
 - **Flight 93, 9-11-2001**, Boeing 757 carrying 33 passengers with 4 terrorists and 7 crew, passengers and crew fought back, the plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA at about 10:10 a.m. going about 580 mph, creating a crater 115 feet deep — **what if you were there, what would you have done, thoughts about eternity**

- **The solution at any age: fear God and keep His commandments**
 - **Ec. 12:13-14** fear God, keep commandments, every person, judgment — **how to remember your Creator**
 - **Acts 17:30-31** (Paul, Mars Hill, Athens) "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that **all people everywhere should repent**, because He has fixed a day in which He will **judge the world in righteousness** through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."
- **- Fearing God is the attitude that results in obedience**
 - "fear" denotes reverence, respect
 - **illus.: 2 Cor. 7:1b** let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God**
- **- if you fear God, you won't fear man** - trials and temptations of life
 - **Matt. 10:28** Jesus, not fear man that can kill body, but God who can kill body and soul in hell
 - **1 Jn. 4:18** perfect love casts out fear - love God and not fear man
- **- if you fear God, you'll be motivated to obey His commands - behave properly in all relationships**
 - **Eph. 5:21** be subject to one another in the fear of Christ
 - **Phil. 2:12** if you fear God, you will work out your own salvation
- **- if you fear God, you will remain faithful to God — result in salvation, eternal life**
 - **Heb. 4:1** fear God and you won't come short of His promises - salvation
- **- Do you fear (respect, reverence) God?**
 - **Heb. 10:31** It is a **terrifying** thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
 - **Heb. 12:29** for our God is a **consuming fire**.
 - **2 Th. 1:7b-9** Jesus' return, retribution those not know God or obey the gospel, penalty
- **- Are you ready for judgment?**
 - **2 Cor. 5:10-11a** stand before judgment seat of Christ, recompense for your deeds
 - **application: If you knew you would stand before Christ in judgment in 1 hour, is there anything you would want to do first?**
 - the hour is now
- **Summary / Conclusion:**
 - **Do you fear (respect, reverence) God? Are you obeying Him? Are you ready for judgment?**
 - **Remember Your Creator in the Days of Your Youth** — before you are old and the days are evil
 - obey now, tomorrow is not promised to any man
 - work now, while you have the mental and physical faculties to accomplish God's word
 - honor and glorify God now
 - to a better job now - every day
 - be ready for judgment
 - **Number your days / soon, it will be too late**
 - **Inv.**