

How Then Should We Live?

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ecclesiastes 10:15-11:10.
- B. How then should we live?—this is a good question to ask.

II. We are to live supportively.

- A. This is especially about government.
- B. Some government is clearly incompetent.
- C. What makes a nation healthy despite its leaders is industrious, hard working people.
- D. We ought not to complain about the government—there is a destructive element to much criticism.

III. We are to live generously.

- A. This is openhanded generosity.
- B. Reasons for generosity.
 - 1. It is the natural outcome of a full life.
 - 2. God has put circumstances around you to meet peoples' needs.
 - 3. If you wait to give, you will never give.
 - 4. God can use gifts powerfully—we do not understand His timing.
- C. God loves a cheerful giver.

IV. We are to live thoughtfully.

- A. Enjoyment does not come from things.
- B. The secret of enjoyment is relationship with a living God.

V. Specifics.

- A. Rejoice in the day of youth—youth is a time to plan and try new things
- B. All people will be held accountable—deny yourself the pleasures of sin and live in light of your destiny.

1. Remove vexation from your mind. Avoid becoming an angry and bitter man.
2. Stop doing harmful things.
3. Even the glory of youth is fleeing—it is deceiving.

Application questions:

1. Why is it sometimes difficult to be supportive of government? How are we to respond in those situations?

2. How can one be generous on a daily basis?

3. What kind of relationship do you have with your possessions? How do you see this affecting your relationship with God positively or negatively?
