

# **Before it's too Late**

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I. Introduction. Text: Ecclesiastes 12:1-14.

II. The consequences of old age.

- A. The mental powers fade.
- B. The teeth fall apart.
- C. The older man wakes earlier.
- D. There is stiffness in the bones.
- E. Sexual desire fails.
- F. Death occurs in various ways.

III. The greatest futility of all is life found without a reason for living.

- A. Youth is the time to find God.
- B. Relate, discover and learn to walk with God when you are young.
  - 1. Do this because you lose your ability to change in old age. The pressures to conform become greater later.
  - 2. Your motivations are highest now. Learn the key of life early—relationship with God.

IV. The preacher learned the Word of God and taught the people with great preparation and care.

- A. The Word of God has power and the Lord is our shepherd. (Isaiah 53)
- B. God is the secret of life, and He is found in the Scriptures.
- C. The sum of all life is to fear God and keep His commandments.
- D. We can become whole people through this.
- E. Fearing God involves...
  - 1. Faith. (Hebrews 11:6)
  - 2. Experiencing His grace.
  - 3. Awe at the majesty of God.

4. Resolve to obey His commandments to love God and one another with all the heart and the soul.

**Application questions:**

1. Why is it important to walk with God when young?

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2. Why does the preacher stress the importance of fearing God in the face of vanity?

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3. What commandments do you find are most difficult to keep, and how do you find resolve in this message to face them anew?

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