

Week 30
204/161

Transforming Daily
“... this is man’s all ...”
Ecclesiastes 12:13

Ecclesiastes is a culmination of Solomon’s life’s experience. In result, Solomon concludes that the most effective and beneficial use of life’s time and resources is to “fear God and keep His commandments.” Ecclesiastes is a running commentary or journal of sorts that records Solomon’s failures and successes as instruction in wisdom to all those who are willing to listen. Ecclesiastes contains the familiar passage of “to everything there is a season.”

Along with Ecclesiastes it is held by most scholars that Solomon wrote Proverbs, and Song of Songs (Song of Solomon). All three books are considered wisdom literature for obvious reasons. The instruction in the wisdom literature is in keeping with cultural practice to pass on valuable information for the prosperity and security of the next generation. Sharing such wisdom with, and if received and applied by their children, Israel’s national heritage would be preserved and continually blessed.

I have been told that I look like my dad, sound like my dad, and also that I talk about my dad a lot. Usually, when someone says that, they mean that I often quote my father’s sayings. Sayings like, “take care of yourself, it’s a fulltime job;” “it’s better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it;” “engage your brain before you open your mouth; etc. There are many other sayings that were used to shape and mold my character and influence my personality. Some of which, I can’t repeat, and some of which, though helpful and certainly beneficial to me, would be considered very negative and critical by others. However, my dad was not saved until I was already an adult, married, and had children of my own.

Now my children have children, and from time to time I hear them quote me using terms and phrases that I used when rearing them (much of what I said to them was what my father said to me after I filtered it through the Bible). For instance, my dad used to say, “the whole world knows you’re stupid, so open your mouth and confirm it.” The Bible says, “Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace” (Proverbs 17:28). I am confident that as my father’s intent for my life through his rearing was to benefit and prosper me, so mine was/is for my children as is theirs for my grandchildren.

Do you know what God’s commandments are? Are you willing to submit to them and commit your life to live them out? Is it your practice to read, study, and memorize Scripture on a regular basis? You can’t teach what you don’t know, and according to Solomon’s testimony, fearing God and keeping His commandments, this is man’s all.