

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Remember Your Creator Before the Evil Days Come

THE EVIL DAYS TO COME

Hardships Won't Let Up (2)

Our Whole Bodies Wear Out (3-5)

Our Bodies Will Fail in Irreversible and Catastrophic Ways (6)

Our Bodies Will Go to the Ground Even as Our Souls Live On (7)

REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR

The Power and Inevitability of Story

Remember Your Creator (1)

1. *Learning Who God Truly Is*

2. *Living in Light of Who God Truly Is at All Times*

Remember the Promises of God in Jesus

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that learning to trust in and follow God when we are younger is the best way to faithfully endure the many challenges typically associated with getting older. The main takeaway, then, is to learn who God is and live as He calls us to while we still can.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. If you are younger, as you consider getting old, what is the main thing that comes to mind? How often do you think about this?
3. If you are older, how would you describe what it's like? What's one thing you wish you'd better understood about being older?
4. Which of the Preacher's descriptions of the evil days to come (front of page) stands out to you and why?
5. Similarly, which of the Preacher's eleven descriptions of our failing bodies stands out the most and why?
6. Were any of the ways Pastor Dave mentioned to serve the elderly as their bodies fail already on your radar?
7. Are you afraid of death or dying? Why/not?
8. What story do you believe about suffering and death? What is at the center of it?
9. How does God's nature (sovereign, wise, and good) shape the way you live in relation to death?
10. How does Jesus' death and resurrection shape the way you feel and act regarding suffering and death?
11. Are there any ways in which you are currently preparing to finish well?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Interview 2-3 of the oldest members of Grace and ask them to help you prepare for what's to come.
14. Commit to being an active participant in your DG alongside people of every age.
15. Pick one of the following to do among the elderly this week. Lend a dignifying hand, give a firm hug, park further away, leave open the most convenient chairs, get up and fetch whatever's needed, be considerate of the foods we serve as we gather, be a dentist driver, consider the font size when we gather for worship, visit with and read God's Word, sing songs that have been written on their hearts, teach your kids to look at people in the eye when they talk, be mindful of the volume level of our music and gathering spaces, provide opportunities to pray and discuss God's Word in smaller groups, consider the times of our gatherings, listen well to another, sing corporately, defend the cause of the aged, keep your kids from running in ways that cause our senior saints to fear losing their balance, teach your kids what it looks like to honor older folks, start valuing gray hair as the crown of glory it is, attempt to include the aged in your life, and carry others so they don't have to drag themselves.
16. Go to the funerals of those at and connected to Grace Church.
17. Find one way to make your suffering story more in line with God's sovereignty and Jesus' sacrificial death.
18. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
19. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is eternal, omnipotent, light, and life.
21. Confess. Confess the false parts of your suffering story, your faithless fear of death, and your indifference to the elderly.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for our time in Ecclesiastes and the senior saints at Grace to help prepare us for what's ahead.
23. Supplication. Ask God to strengthen the elderly among us and prepare us to be elderly. Ask Him to help us remember Him.