

University Heights Baptist Church

Ambassador's Class.
Loving, Growing, Sharing

12 June 2011

Andy on Life

(Class Reunion)

INTRODUCTION

What is the value or challenge of school reunions?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

1. Do you think the opening verses are more gloomy and morbid (having a bad hair day) or an expression of experience and wisdom?
2. What does the term “under the sun” say about the intended scope?
3. What’s the theme of verses 9-10?
4. Technology is changing our world exponentially today. What are some life lessons from previous generations that will not change?
5. Why have electronic social networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) become so popular?
6. Andy says, “The purpose of life is to be happy.” What do you think? Ecc 3:12-13; Phil 1:21; 1 Cor 3:9-17

APPLICATION

How can we properly value relationships past and present? How would you explain to someone to find their purpose in life?

It is well to see and feel that all is vanity, if we are thus led to turn from the phenomenal to the real, the abiding, the Divine. But it will be to our hurt if we dwell upon the vanity of all things, so that pessimism be fostered, so that we fail to recognize Infinite Reason at the heart of all things, so that we regard this as the worst of all worlds, so that for us the future has no brightness.¹

In Ecc 11–12, Solomon sums up the whole matter with three practical admonitions: A. *Live by faith* Circumstances are never going to be ideal in this life, but we must go ahead and obey God and trust Him for the results. If you wait for the right wind or the right day, you may miss your opportunity. You may seem to be a fool, like someone who casts bread on moving water, but God will see to it that it will come back to you. B. *Remember that life will end* Is this a morbid suggestion? No. It is a Christian realism. One day you will die, so make the most of the life you now have. This is not the worldly attitude, “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” Rather, it is the attitude of Paul to live is Christ, to die is gain. Note the three key words here directed especially to young people: rejoice (11:9), remove (11:10), and remember (12:1). Rejoice in God’s blessings while you are young; remove from your life the sins that cause sorrow; and remember to serve God and fear Him in the days of your youth. In 12:1–7 we have a poetic description of old age and death. C. *Fear God and Obey Him*. Live as those who will one day face judgment. When the fire of God tests your works will they all burn up? ²

¹ *The Pulpit Commentary: Ecclesiastes*. 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (15). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the Old Testament* (Ec 11–12). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.