

2. Analyzing the Text

a. vss 1-7 are put together under the thought of "remembering your creator." This part of the book is popularly known as the "song of old age" and it probably is fairly represented by that title. The idea is that life wears out...it may do it suddenly but often does it gradually and if you do not make it a matter of remembering God as you live the time may come when you are unable to do so in the infirmity of life. Verse 7 notes that we are all returning to a sphere beyond our control and the proper thrust for our present existence is to "remember" to "take note of" to "honor" God while we live.

b. vss 8-12 note that the Preacher, interested in what would give permanence, put together words of truth...the sort of information given by One Shepherd, Israel's God. He had experienced the failure of knowledge when it was knowledge for knowledge's sake. But now he instructs in a knowledge with the Lord as the source and foundation. These words of truth can establish us and it seems apparent that without them we will not be effective or assured.

c. vss 13-14 conclude the book. The idea is not that we are placed in an inferior position but when we honor God's word and live in respect of Him...there is nothing better for us than that. Compare these words with the closing verses of 1 John 3, for example. The fact is that God will determine the value of everything (1 Corinthians 3). Being accountable to Him is our greatest challenge and the proof of effective living.

3. The Lessons of the Passage

1. "Remember your Creator"...and this is the main theme of the whole book. "Remember" is not just to have a memory knowledge but to have an appreciation and respect of Him in all the areas of life. It is the most basic thing needed in a life that is effectively used for God.