

**June 22 2008**  
**Ecclesiastes 12:13**  
**Looking Back Looking Ahead**

**What can Ecclesiastes do for me?**

**The Purpose of Ecclesiastes is: To spare future generations the bitterness of learning through their own experiences that life is meaningless apart from God.**

**The setting of Ecclesiastes is: Solomon was looking back on his life, much of which was lived apart from God.**

**From our culture we hear:**

- **Possessions are what will give you meaning and satisfaction.**
- **Experience it for your self that is when you are happy and satisfied.**
- **Power is satisfying.**
- **Pleasure that is what you want.**
- **Solomon found these to be a disappointment and disillusionment.**

**Hear the Truth:**

- **Humility is the attitude Solomon came to at the end of his life.**
- **Repentance was the result of his looking back on his life.**
- **Solomon affirms the value of knowledge, relationships, work, and pleasure, but only in their proper place. Everything temporal must be seen in light of the eternal.**

**Ecclesiastes 5: 18-19**  
**The Key Verse is Ecclesiastes 12:13**  
**Ecclesiastes 12:1**

**Looking Back; Let us take an Inventory of our lives, learning from our mistakes, confessing them to God and asking His power to not repeat them. Let us read and learn from Solomon's wisdom and folly.**

**Looking Ahead; Let us look ahead with wisdom and with confidence and hope, learning new Godly patterns of life and love.**

**Let us enjoy who we are, what God has given us, who we are with, and the best we can, at that moment to be trusting and relating with God.**

