

## **Ecclesiastes 12:8-14**

### **“Everything Matters”**

#### **1. What He Taught (8)**

- “All is vanity”
- “Hevel”
- “Nothing we are offered under the sun is ours to keep” — Kidner

#### **2. How He Taught (9-10)**

- weighing/studying/arranging with great care
- Sought to find the right and acceptable words
- uprightly— his best to understand and more right

#### **3. Why He Taught (11-12)**

- wisdom that is taught is like:
  - goads— sharp sticks with spurs aimed for guiding animals/correct if off course
    - Ecclesiastes is like God’s cattle prod
    - Stop looking in all the wrong places
  - nails firmly fixed — lasting and true
    - Given by one Shepherd
    - Build your life upon it
- Stop the endless pursuit of seeking knowledge just for the sake of it

#### **4. The Final Point of what He Taught (13-14)**

- The end of the matter
  - Exhortation — Fear God and keep his commandments
    - Fear God — love/honor as a child does their Father
    - Keep His commands — He knows best
      - His commands are to better our life and protect our lives
      - “Whole duty of man” — the whole of man/the purpose of man
        - We were created to worship and obey God our Creator
  - Motivation
    - v.14— God will judge every deed, good or evil, nothing is secret
    - He started with “nothing matters” and ends with “everything matters”
    - Nothing is pointless and nothing is secret
    - This is as much convicting as it is comforting
  - Salvation
    - The only way we will ever fear God is to become His child
    - ***John 1:12-13— But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God***
    - The Shepherd laid down His life for His sheep

## **Small Group Discussion:**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and Scripture Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. How does recognizing that the things of this world don't last change the way we view life? Derek Kidner says, "nothing we are offered under the sun is ours to keep." How does this statement challenge you?
3. Can you share a time when God's Word corrected or redirected your life like a "goad"? What does it look like to build our life upon the foundation of the Word? Why is it like "nails firmly driven"?
4. What does it practically look like in everyday life to "fear God" as a loving Father and trust that His commandments are good for us? How do we typically look at God's law? As something that is over-bearing or something that is for our good and protection?
5. How does the truth that "everything matters" both convict and comfort you in the way you live your daily life?