

IMPACT

I Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Ecclesiastes 12:1 “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them.’”

Quote: “The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.” D.L. Moody
Note Solomon’s humble prayer in I Kings 3:5-15 in response to God asking him what he desired. What a difference there would have been in his legacy had he practiced what he preached! (Proverbs 3:1-8)

David had given this parting admonition to his son, Solomon. “I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.”¹ Prior to Saul becoming Israel’s first king, God had given clear instruction that kings were not to multiply to themselves horses, wives or riches. God had also commanded that Israel’s king “write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and *he shall read it all the days of his life, that* he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, *that* his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, *that* he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and *that* he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.” Solomon failed miserably on all counts.² Over time, he became known, not only for wisdom, but for wealth and women!

Slowly, but surely, Solomon’s pursuit of “the good life” had changed him. The Law of God was replaced by the lust of his own flesh as the driving force in his life. He was “drawn away by his own desires and enticed.” God had warned that heathen wives would turn the heart of the king away from Him, but Solomon allowed evil

desires to deaden his devotion; this gave birth to sin; and sin brought forth death.³ First Kings 11 records that among the gods that Solomon followed were Ashtoreth and Chemosh, to whom the sacrifice of children in fire was practiced! What a change from the humble young king who was loyal to God. To be sure, Solomon’s failure to fear God paralleled his failure to read and heed the law of God.

Commentators tell us that Ecclesiastes is Solomon’s autobiography. Of his exploits, he wrote, “Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed *all was vanity and grasping for the wind*. There was no profit under the sun.”⁴ This man who had it all, wrote, “*I hated life* because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.” He then wrote a warning.

This could happen to you!

“Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; *But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment*. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity.”⁵ Solomon concluded the book with advice that each of us would be wise to heed. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”⁶ Our attitude must be one of reverence for God. Our actions must be in line with His Word. Our ambition must be to please Him. Our accomplishments will be judged as good or evil by God’s definition. We must beware! Solomon’s loss of devotion and his descent into sin could just as easily happen to you and to me!

¹ I Kings 2:2-3 ² Deuteronomy 17:14-20; I Kings 10:23, 26-28 (wealth), 11:1-4 (women) ³ James 1:14-15 ⁴ Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, 17 ⁵ Ecclesiastes 11:9-10 ⁶ Ecclesiastes 12:13-14