

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Agape Thanksgiving All-Church Family Dinner

NEXT Sunday, November 24, 5pm at Element. Join us for a family-style dinner. We ask each family to make and bring a recipe from our Menu - there are easy and more advanced recipes to choose from. Recipes are available in the lobby.

Holiday Store for Delta

Element will be hosting and providing items and support for a free Holiday Store for all students at Delta High School. Donations and help needed. See the Welcome Center for more information.

Store open December 10-13th.
Donations needed by December 8th.
Volunteers needed the week of.

Women's Ornament Exchange

December 5th at 6:30pm.
Childcare is available with RSVP only
women@ourelement.org

Holiday Bazaar

Come shop for Christmas gifts at the eMoms! Holiday Bazaar on December 14th, 9-3pm at Element.


Element at the Movies: Star Wars


Get your tickets at the Welcome Center for Star Wars Episode 9, December 22nd, at 2:50pm. \$12 per ticket.



Christmas Eve Services

Mark your calendars: Christmas Eve will be at 5pm, 7pm, 9pm & 11pm
With nursery-preschool childcare at 5 & 7pm only

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Ecclesiastes

The Existential Hangover



Week 31: Beyond Vapor to Beauty

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 12:1
Ecclesiastes 12:1-8
Psalm 116:15

John 6:39-40
Psalm 92:14

Week 31: Beyond Vapor to Beauty

Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Today in the book of Ecclesiastes Solomon continues to talk about youth and beauty versus getting old. He will point out how getting older is more painful for some and less painful for others depending on the focus.

Briefly describe the stage in life you are in.

Is talking about death painful for you? Why?

Is aging painful for you?

Our culture hates the idea of “getting old.” Many people do whatever they can to not avoid living the glory that getting old was meant to be. Where grey hair and stooped shoulders were once a sign of wisdom and a life lived fully, now they are seen as things to hide or ignore. Even more than getting old we hate *looking* old, we don’t see it as beauty, we see it as another indicator of something we can’t control as we think life is wasting away.

What things do you hide about yourself that you see as signs of age?

What benefit do you derive from hiding these things?

What benefit does the Kingdom of God derive from you being afraid of aging?

Ecclesiastes is meant to help us because it is so honest. If you look carefully, throughout the book, Solomon has celebrated every stage of life. He shows there can be joy when life is not focused solely under the sun and on ourselves; when we step out of the realms we have created for ourselves and live in the life God has for us.

Describe the realm that you have created for yourself.

What has been the focus of your life this week?

Most of what Solomon talks about today is focused on the young, but that doesn’t mean if you think you aren’t young you get to tune him out. He starts with a line to help us remember our place in the created order: *Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth.* He says the number one rule to remember, is there is a God and it is not us. God is our creator, He made us with His hands, He spoke, He breathed, He loved, He called, He redeemed. When we are young we tend to run from God to do our own thing because

we think we are invincible, Solomon says many young people are prone to forget God just when they need Him most.

In what ways did you forget that you are not God in your life, this week?

What have you done in your forgotten-ness?

If you are older, how can you encourage younger people to remember their Creator now?

Charles Bridges wrote, “Many have remembered too late—none too soon.”

Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-8.

Is God near to you? How?

Do you believe God has promised that He will remember you?

What is repentance?

We have an admonition to remember our creator, remember God, and remember life. We all have run from God at various points, but our Creator made us and He can also remake us. Repentance means we name the places we have run and return to God because we are brought close because of the love of Christ. One of the beautiful things about the Gospel is that it proves to us that our Creator remembers us even when we fail to remember Him.

How have you forgotten God in what you dealt with this week?

How have the things in your life been like vapor?

One of the statements that was made in the message was this: *The security of our salvation does not depend on our remembrance of God but on His promise to remember us.* In John 6:39-40 Jesus promised to remember us for all days.

What is your reaction to this statement? Do you believe it is true?

If true, what does that mean for you and the things you dealt with this week?

We live in the living hope of our great God and remember Him no matter what stage of life we find ourselves.

Who specifically do you know that needs to hear the good news that God remembers them, and offers the only way back into proper worship and relationship with Him?