

Addressing our empty idols

Ecclesiastes 12:8-14

- I. Our Creator: Life is filled with meaningless idols unless we serve our creator (12:1, 8).
 - The idols of intellect (1:12-18), entertainment (2:1-3), accomplishment (2:4-6), wealth (2:7-8a), and sex (2:8b) all end in emptiness (2:9-11; 1:2).

- II. Our Shepherd: Idolatry is avoided only through the word of God, our shepherd (12:9-12).
 - A. God inspired Solomon who wrote carefully so we would know God's wisdom (9-10).
 - God moved men to write Scripture under His control (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16).

 - B. God's wisdom motivates and steadies us because He cares as our shepherd (11).

 - C. We must not add anything to God's word based on something man writes (12).

- III. Our Judge: Life is meaningful life only as we worship and obey God our judge (12:13-14).
 - A. Our whole duty is to worship and obey God (13).
 - *Worship* corrects our emotions and thoughts.
 - *Obedience* corrects our behavior and relationships.

 - B. God holds us accountable for all we do (14).