



Truth for Life

By Kevin McCauley

One thousand years before Jesus walked the earth, Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. In his writing, Solomon helps the reader to view and understand life and its cycles. He discusses the seeming futility of life but goes on to explain that it does in fact make sense when lived with purpose to glorify God! While his writing is nearly three thousand years old, the words and wisdom of Solomon ring true as the day they were written.

Recently, I engaged in a study of the last portion of Ecclesiastes and found wisdom and great counsel in Solomon's words. I'd like to share some of what Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:14 have to say. *(Having these verses open before you may be helpful in reading).*

Delight in the Gift of Life is the admonition of 11:7-8. Solomon reminds us that life is a gift and to be enjoyed. Despite hardship and adversity, life is meant by God to be pleasant, enjoyable and fulfilling. We are encouraged to assess life and see its beauty as God intended.

Fully Enjoy Your Youth is the teaching of 11:9-10. With adulthood come many responsibilities, so we are encouraged to have a youth free of burden. There is a clear warning, however, that there are consequences to our choices - so living wisely and in God's grace are best when young.

Draw Near to God is the counsel of 12:1-8. These verses remind us of the strength, protection and, continued availability found in God! These verses talk of the inevitability of growing old and yes, even death.

Solomon instructs us to build our lives upon the Lord and find meaning and purpose in Him. When looking back over the years, there is peace and fulfillment in knowing we have invested our lives in what has truly mattered!

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Solomon has given this instruction in hope that the reader will see and put into practice the wisdom of following God. Fortunately, he also gives a challenge to help us see the beauty of a life built upon fellowship with God.

Learn God's Wisdom: It is Truth. 12:9-10 encourage us to be readers and doers of Scripture. Solomon reminds us it is good to know what the Word of God says but, even more importantly, to do what it instructs. Many people have read the Bible and may have even come to a point of understanding but there is a difference in knowing what is good - and doing it! Solomon reminds us there is blessing and peace in following God's instruction.

Master God's Wisdom: The Way to an Effective Life. 12:11-12 Here, Solomon reminds us that God is good and He truly knows better! Man has limited knowledge and therefore limited understanding. The one who places his trust in an omniscient, loving God will fare much better. There is wisdom in trust, even when it goes against culture, norms or even our intuition.

Trust His Ways: It's Divine. 12:11 reminds us that the Word of God is given for our benefit. In God's wisdom and love, He has given Scripture that we might have instructions, principles, examples and help for life. By applying the truth of Scripture to life, there is blessing. God is a loving Father and He has given His Word as a guide for life. Following it keeps us from many of the pitfalls and problems while on our journey.

Obey God's Word: It a Commandment. 12:13-14. The conclusion of Solomon's remarks remind us that after all we have been exposed to in the Word, we are to fear God and keep His commandments; we are all accountable to God for our actions and decisions we make in life. Walking with God, following His ways, and living a life that matters will be better for us!

The words of Solomon have greatly impacted me. I am grateful for the opportunity to share some of his teaching with you... trusting it will cause more of us to see, understand, apply and live the Truth of the Word!

Some upcoming Hope Christian Church events

Hope Workday – Saturday, Dec 9, 8am - noon

There is always a lot to do at a Hope Work Day! Come for a bit or stay the whole time and help take care of our buildings and grounds. We always have a good time serving together – and getting things done! Coffee and bagels provided! For questions, please contact Oscar Gomez (oog1978@icloud.com).

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Merry Christmas

Christmas Caroling – Friday, Dec 15, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

We will meet at a local home for hot chocolate and cookies and then go out into the neighborhood to extend Christmas cheer! This is a great American tradition that will be fun for ALL ages! There just might be hot chocolate and cookies at the end of the night as well!

Cookie Exchange – Sunday, Dec 17, after church

Bring some of your favorite Christmas treats to share with others. Bring a dozen – take home a dozen! Bring 5 dozen – take home 5 dozen! Hope will provide plates for you to take home your bounty!

Women’s White Elephant Gift Exchange – Monday, Dec 18, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

The Women’s study group is hosting a fun night. Bring a gift to exchange, Christmas present (unwrapped) for a child in need and an appetizer to share. It’s going to be FUN! All women are invited!

Men’s Group Movie Night – Monday, Dec 18, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Join together with the men of Hope to watch and enjoy a hilarious Christmas movie. Popcorn and drinks will be provided...you bring the laughs and good times! All men are invited!

Christmas Eve Sunday Service – Sunday, Dec 24, 9:45am – 11:15am

We will have the Hope family together for a special Christmas Eve worship service. Join with us for a powerful reminder of the first Christmas and the reason for the season!

Kids' Cooking Club – Thursday, Dec 28, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Kids 5th grade and under come enjoy cooking fun! Meet at the church to prepare and eat a wonderful lunchtime meal and enjoy a fun time with other kids. Parent must stay with kids age 3 and under to assist. Please sign up for ingredients in the lobby.

New Year’s Eve Sunday Service – Sunday, Dec 31, 9:45am – 11:15am

We will have the Hope family together for a special New Year’s Eve worship service. Join with us for a challenge from the Word to live 2018 in a more impactful way for Jesus!

Married Couples after New Years, New Years Party – Friday, Jan. 5, 7:00pm – 10:00

The Andersons will be hosting a belated New Years party at their home. ALL married couples of Hope Church are invited! Watch for future announcements for sign-up and logistics.

Thursday Night Bible Study

If you are enjoying and learning from the Sunday message series from LUKE, you can enjoy more of his writings in ACTS. The Thursday night study has been going through this book, chapter by chapter, learning about the early church (called the Way) and Paul's travels through most of the Roman empire. If you think you have suffered for spreading the gospel, read what Paul and some of his disciples suffered. If you think it is hard to walk a mile to the store or school, try walking 20 miles or more to the next town to preach. Hope to see you at 7:00 any Thursday. If you want more information, call me at 408 246-2313.

Monday Night Men's Bible Study

Every week a group of men from Hope meet to laugh, discuss life, pray for one another and study God's Word. This proves to be a time where men can talk through things in a safe environment and help one another deal with the issues we all face on a daily basis. For our study time, we are currently looking at the passage from Luke's Gospel that Pastor Kevin will be teaching the next Sunday. We look at the passage and share insights and observations. We also have the opportunity to help shape the message our entire congregation will be hearing in just a few days. This study is open to all men who want to meet with Jesus and other Christ-followers! Join the men of Hope each Mondays at 7:00pm.

A look ahead at Sunday Messages

Dec. 3	Luke 6:17-49
Dec. 10	Luke7:1-17
Dec. 17	Luke2:1-21
Dec. 24	Luke2:22-40
Dec. 31	Luke2:41-52

Hope Christian Church

Pastor: Kevin McCauley

Music Director: Ray Wolff

Children's Director: Deahna Rosch

Youth Group Leader: David Rosch

Due to holiday plans please submit all articles/news for the next Hope Notes by **Monday, Dec. 11th, 5pm.** Send to: Ed Auria eauria@sbcglobal.net



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