**Title - A God Centered Life**

 **1. Text (**Ecclesiastes 12:13–14)

13. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole (duty) of man. 14. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

1. **Main Idea**

A God-centered (The Triune God) life is the only pursuit that makes life and death meaningful.

1. **Background**
2. The OT has different kinds of literature the Law, the Psalms, the History, the Prophets, and the wisdom.
3. The book of Ecclesiastes is grouped under a particular type called “wisdom books,” that includes Job, Proverbs, and Song of songs.
4. Notice also that The Preacher is introduced as “the son of David, king in Jerusalem.”
5. It shows that the Preacher is an important public figure:
6. The son of David
7. King in Jerusalem
8. Wisest of all those who ruled before him (1:16).
9. Although, it is said that this could refer to Solomon, there is no mention of his name even once unlike in Proverbs 1:1 and Songs of songs 1:1.

**4. Exposition**

The end of the matter; all has been heard

1. The Teacher investigated the different things that human beings chase after in life, having pondered and examined it, he arrived at some conclusions.
2. What are the things that the teacher observed about life?
3. The teacher examined work, wealth, power, pleasure, intelligence, wisdom, and love (Chapters 1-9)
4. He also observed that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes/devices/inventions (Ecc.7:29)

 **What are the conclusions of the teacher?**

* 1. Vanity of vanities (the preacher starts the book and ends it with this conclusion 1:2; 12:8)
	2. But the teacher also makes a recommendation .This includes two commands and two motivations.

**a. Two Commands**

* 1. Fear God
	2. And keep His commandments

**b. Two Motivations**

* 1. For this is the whole (duty) of humanity
	2. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

 **5. Theology of the passage**

The timeless truth

1. Creation: God the creator (12:1) made everything beautiful (3:11) and gave them to us as good gifts wisdom, wealth, pleasure, power, love, intelligence (3:13, 5:18-19).

2. Fall: Sin corrupted the good gifts that God has given us wisdom, wealth (greed), pleasure, power (oppressive), love (lust), (7:29).

1. We pursue the “good gifts” and leave out the giver of those good gifts (Romans 1:25).
2. Such a godless life leads us to emptiness, meaninglessness, vanity, and vapor.
3. Life turned out to be hard (work), unfair (oppression, injustice, unrighteousness), mysterious (uncertain future), life is temporal (Death).
4. There is an increasing tendency to disregard the most important things in life fearing God and obeying His Word.

 3. Redemption: Life can become meaningful and enjoyable if the creator of all good gifts is in it (God-centered life .2:24)

1. The wise man in Ecclesiastes showed us life as it is “under the sun” (12)
2. By doing that he pointed us to a greater truth a life “under the law, under sin” (Rom.2:12; 3:9; 3:19,)
3. When we are “under the law” there is no human being who will be right with God (Romans 3:20).
4. We are all to be eternally condemned by the righteous judge and death should have been our final verdict (Romans 6:23)
5. But God being rich in mercy give us life by allowing Christ to take upon himself the judgment of God (3:21-26).
6. This is the grace of all grace greatest grace.

 4. Judgment: There is a day we will need to stand before God and given an account of everything we do on this earth good or evil (2 Cor.5:10)

1. Everyone will give an account of all their words and actions (Romans 5-6)
2. Those who are in Christ will not be condemned (Romans 8:1)
3. Those who reject Christ are condemned already (John 3:18)

**6. Take Away**

1. A God-centered life is one that fears God, obeys His commandments, and lives in awe of His judgment.
2. It finds meaning not in worldly success but in reverent relationship with the Creator
3. Through Christ, we are empowered to live this life with hope, purpose, and eternal significance. (Rev.14:7)
4. A pursuit of God in Christ through the Spirit is what brings lasting joy and satisfaction.
5. Leaving God out of the things we pursue, that is “the tragedy of tragedies.”