

Transcript* - End of the Matter – 3/8/2026 – Pastor John Klundt

Do you like history? See it. Today we're going to do a little poll as we begin our time together. That's okay with you? How many of you are really enjoying the fact that we have already incredibly hot weather right now? Just go ahead and raise your hand. Okay. I'm just going to say, shame on all of you.

Okay. Let me let me just say, I'm sure most of you that raise your hand are going to be heading back in about a month from now. We don't need this. Lord, thank you for the weather, but we do not need this right now. And, I can't believe you're enjoying a 90 degree weather. All right.

I got that off my chest. We're going to we're going to be in Ecclesiastes chapter 12. Today we're going to wrap up our series. I've really enjoyed, starting off 2026 with this series. I think it's been real timely. It's been really practical. For a book that's been written, a long, long time ago. And yet it has so much to speak to us today.

And, we're going to wrap up our series today in, in chapter 12. And it's been so good. By the way, my name is John Klein. I'm one of the pastors here, and I'm just grateful for you. If you're with us for the first time as a guest and for those of you that come all the time, I'm grateful for you as well.

For sure. We are again. We're going to be in chapter 12. We're going to start off in verse one. Solomon again is going to wrap up, all the things that he's been telling us. Throughout the, the book of Ecclesiastes here he says, remember also your creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near, of which you will say, I have no pleasure in them.

And I love how he begins this chapter again, wrapping up for us what we've seen through the first 1211 chapters and just really this theme of like, hey, life can be lived under the sun, but if we pursue just the things under the sun, there's incredible, just meaninglessness to it. And it's it's vanity in that context. And here we are.

He's like, hey, if I can encourage you with something specifically, he's like, remember your creator in the days of your youth. Now some of you in the room are actually youthful. And and so here's the thing I would say to you, I'll get to those of us that are not so youthful anymore. But I would say to you as, as somebody who's young, I think Solomon's saying, hey, listen, the best way you can live your life if you're young is with the Lord.

I mean, and I hear the amens, probably from the people who are older going, man, I'm a lot like Solomon. I've lived my life and I haven't always lived it. And in accordance with the Lord and with the

Lord. And and if I would have done that, my life would have been so much better than than I could have ever imagined.

Not just being connected to the Lord, but staying with the Lord in every possible way. I would say to you, maybe here's another way to say it. Remember your creator while you still have a chance because he's like saying, hey, the days are going to come and the years go by and we know this to be true.

Life just goes so fast and we think all we have all the time in the world and and especially when we're young, it just seems like eventually things will come out the way that they're supposed to. And it just kind of all work itself out. But we also recognize that the older we get, the more we have to be really a whole lot more intentional about the choices that we make in regards to our relationship with the Lord.

But I would encourage you with this. Remember, your creator while you still have a chance. And that's not just for the young. That's for any of us at any age who are still breathing like, remember how important it is to have a relationship with the Lord and be connected to the Lord because he's going to go on in the next couple of verses and really lay out like, here's, here's the realities of life.

Here's what, here's what's going to happen. Life is going to come at you, and it comes at each and every one of us who are in this room, no matter how old you are. And in verses two and three, he begins to say this before the sun and the light and the moon, and the stars are darkened, and the clouds return after the rain.

In the days when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few. Those who look through the windows are dimmed. And he's saying, hey, here's here's the reality for everybody who's reading Ecclesiastes. Physically, we will all eventually begin to break down like there's an inevitability towards that. And, and and what he's speaking here is really some, some wise words.

But just as you just watch life in general, you just see this unfold like eventually your eyes don't see as well as they used to. Your ears don't work as well as they used to. We have. You know, obviously. Obviously your ears worked, your. Your nighttime trips to the bathroom are more frequent. Your hair begins to change color or or goes out.

So I will I will tell you, how this happened.

I wish I could tell you that I was older when it happened than I. Than it did. I was, I believe, in my late 20s. And there was this point in time where, like, trying to figure out what to do with my hair because there was it was going so far back and I couldn't comment to make it look good anymore.

So I, I was like, okay, I want to I want to do a gradual step down. Not I didn't want to go crazy all at once. I just wanted to kind of be gradual with it. So we and our house, we had an electric electric razor for cutting hair and and I went to the kitchen and my wife, I sat down and put a towel over me.

And my wife had the razor, and we had this very clear understanding that it was going to be it was going to be at the highest level, not the lowest level, but at the highest level. So that again, we could do a gradual, you know, step down. And the first pass through was, was in the back of my head in the middle.

And as soon as my wife made the first pass, these words came out of her mouth. Oh, no.

I can't tell you how frightening that was. But there was not a gradual step down. Let's let me tell you that it it was very quick and there was nothing I could do about it. And I, I do believe to this day it was intentional. By the way. Yeah.

Not only does hair change, but we we don't sleep as well. We our our posture begins to not be as good as it used. I mean that's what he says. It's like, hey, we're strong men get bent over the grinders, the teeth like they don't work like they used to. All the physical things that come with getting older just because.

And here's a reality like that's not it's not true across the board for everybody. Like different physical things affect different different people. And but but age comes at us. We don't have the energy that we used to have. We don't have the vitality like all these things. And it's like, well, Jiminy Crickets. This is really depressing. And and yet it's it's the reality that, that we face.

And the reality is supposed to be a clue to us that there is an inevitability to life, there is a progression of things that begin to not work as well as they used to. As as we get older and he's like, hey, if I could just encourage you, remember your creator, not just while you still have a chance.

Remember your creator in the days like in your youth, like take a hold of the Lord and the earliest opportunity that you get. And if today is that day, do it today. Like don't, don't wait one more day. But

for a lot of us, there's that sense that we just have all this time. And Solomon saying, I can tell you from experience, I've lived it under the sun.

I've lived it as full and as fast as you can do it. And it came up meaningless. And now there's this sense, like, I've gotten older and I'm looking back and I wish I would have held on to the Lord in my earliest of days, and I wish I would have been with the Lord and been more committed and faithful to the Lord in those days.

And and it gets to the to the rationale and the meaning of this. Because, because there becomes a finality. Listen to the verses six and seven, he says, before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden ball is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, as and the dust returns to the earth as it was, the spirit returns to the God who gave it.

He's like, hey, you, me, you, and I. We don't really get this, this terminology because we don't use this in the context. When somebody dies today, we'll typically say things like, hey, they they passed on or they're no longer with us. We use those kind of phrase is and stuff like that. But maybe, maybe we'll come up with some new phrases, that we just learned today from Solomon.

The silver cord is broken. Maybe the next time somebody passed you, you go, hey there, you know the silver cord is broken or the gold bowl is broken, like, or the the picture is shattered. But these are very final things. This not to this is a progression of your physical body not functioning as good as it used to.

It's a finality and it's loud. And when it happens, it's and the sudden suddenness of the moment and says here's what happens, he says. And then our physical body that was frail and failing returns to dust, and our spirit ascends to the Lord, which means this there is there is a judgment that's coming for all of us. And again, we we don't we don't all have the same difficulties, physically speaking, as we grow older.

Some have different ones and others. But here's what I do know. The older you get and the more you spend time around, people that are. I don't know what the age of old is, so I'm not going to try to figure that out today, but I can tell you one of the key elements is you start talking about all the things that aren't working.

That's the that's the no. That's the way, you know, I mean, it's like, hey, you had you had, knee replacement. Well, I've had six of them try to be that like. I mean, that's that's the sense. But so there's all that that's happening and yet he's like, hey, here's the thing that you're all going to have in common.

The silver cord will, will, will be, will be broken. Like there is going to be a finality to it. It's going to snap. It's going to break. It's it's going to shatter. The system is not going to well, the wheel at the well is not going to work anymore. And when that happens, we go to dust and our spirit ascends to the Lord and we face judgment.

And here's what I know to be true. When we get to the when we get to that point in time, it's not going to be, you know, Lord, here's all the things that I've done in my life. I've been so good. I mean, I've been better than most. I mean, people wish they could be as good as me.

Frank. Right? Like you're like, we're thinking in this idea of it's just I can just do enough and earn enough and be good enough. It's like, hey, it's not what you've done. It's who you know. And if you don't know the name of Jesus, if you don't know the name of Jesus, the names that saves all of the things that you can think about in your life that you've done are meaningless compared to remembering your creator.

While you still have a chance. Because there's a point in time when the chance goes and it's no longer. And we'll wish that we would have taken the opportunity when it was afforded to us over and over and over again. Remember your creator. Why you still have a chance in verses nine and ten? Is he's just wrapped.

We just have a few verses left, actually. And the and the chapter 12, and he begins by saying this, besides being wise, the preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care, the preacher sought to find words of delight and uprightly. He wrote words of truth. I really appreciate what Solomon has done here, because it's not the first time he's done it, but he's trying to think you know, I got a I got to let people know how good of a job I've really done.

So I'll say in the third person, because that seems better. Hey you, man, you, you've taught a really good class here. You've said some really incredible things and you commune like your communication was so good and so thoughtful and so organized and so well put together. I mean, people have had good classes before, but none like this class.

Like this class stands above them all. And he's explaining like, hey, the the preacher who is himself has communicated this truth and he's beginning to give this proclamation to to all the people. But here's, here's what he wants us to know. He's like, hey, he hasn't just given you good words. Like, there's people who can give you a good word, but he's giving you words of truth.

And those words can make all the difference in the world. He's not just giving you words to hear so often. This is such a big deal. And it's been such a big deal for so long. We hear things, but we do

nothing with them. We become hearers of the word, but not doers of the word. He's like, hey, I'm going to give you some words.

I'm going to help you understand the practical side of living life under the sun. That's a disconnect to the Lord and how meaningless that is, and how vain how much vanity is in the context of that. But what I want you to know is, here's some practical things that you can do, where you can lean into how to live each and every day.

It's like, so we can actually be not just here, but doers. Like there's practical things to put into place. It's like, hey, just by the way, just so you know, these good wise words that are so good for you, they're not from me, they're not from me. And he goes on in the next couple verses to say a verse 11, actually, he says, the words of the wise are like goats and like the nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings.

They are given by one shepherd. And think about these wise words that he is saying. He's like, hey, it's the same thing as a shepherd, and a goat is like this long stick. And he uses this long stick to to guide and to move his sheep where he needs them to go. And it's just like a farmer who does the same thing with the cattle.

It's like, hey, it's the stick. And he he needs to move them in the right direction at the right time. And it's for their protection. And so they can have the right food to eat and to get to have access to water and, and the, the shepherd for us, like Solomon is saying, hey, I'm, I'm doing that for you.

I'm giving you this guidance, and I'm helping you understand this life, this thing under the sun and all that it has to offer. And if you pursue it and pursue the things that are going to put you in the right direction, he goes, hey, I'm going to I'm going to help you and guide you into the right direction.

And he says, hey, by the way, also these fixed nails, they're so it's so good that it's penetrated your heart. I tell you, I'm, I'm guessing your experience is the same thing. And I hear people say this over and over and over again. It's when it's when they open up the Word of God and they begin reading the Word of God, and they'll say, it's just like.

It's like it just knew everything about me and it knew where I was, and I knew what was going on in my life and in they knew the struggles that I was facing. And and it's able to not it's not just able to to just have us read it and go, oh, that's good stuff. But it literally opens us up into our innermost depths.

And I'm glad you have these fixed nails where you can have these things to really hang on to. I love the fact that Scripture is such a great foundation for us, and it gives us this firm footing to have each and every day where there's just truth. And in our culture, in our world, there is so much untruths and so much deception and so many lies.

And this right here is true. And it's useful. It's beneficial for us because it's always true. It gives us the best life to live the fixed nails for us in that, in that context. And it's so it's so good for us to have that, to know that these nails are an encouragement for us. But he's like, hey, just so I can remind you again, he goes, just so that if there's any misunderstanding, if there's anything that made you think these words were from me, I need you to know that they are given by the shepherd and they are given by the Lord.

He's like, what I did is I took the words that the Lord gave me, and I gave them to you. See, when you when you teach somebody what you want to be able to say to them is, hey, these aren't my words. These are the words that I've got from the Lord, and I'm giving them to you. Any teacher, preacher, pastor.

I mean, that should be inherently the goal. Above every goal is I'm taking the words that God has given me, and I'm giving them to you because these are the words that you can rely on and depend on, and they're true in every possible way for us. And so what that tells us is that we have a God in, in our relationship with the Lord.

That's not distant from us, but he's close, a God who knows everything but also wants to be known by us. A God who speaks with absolute, authority when he speaks and finality like there's there's a depth to that, to what he is saying to us, and there's a finality to it, so that when he speaks again, it's it's truthful.

We don't have to go, boy, let's let's figure this out. Whether whether we can trust God or not. He is trustworthy for each and every one of us in this room today. He he is trustworthy. He goes on in verse 12 and he said, my son, beware of anything beyond the ease of making many books. There is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

Interesting when it comes to Scripture, I think this is so important for us to to lean into this particular thing, because there's so much information out there today for us, Scripture is not a crossword puzzle. It's not a jigsaw. You think about all the the podcast out there today of just endless information that we could delve into when it comes to people who are claiming things about Scripture, books that are available on different websites or even in bookstores today, books about numbers, books about multiplying numbers and scripture and books about trying to fit this scripture on top of this scripture and make it fit.

And you just move it around just the right way. You can see the things that I see, that nobody else can see, the secrets of of Scripture, the the thing I should the thing I would tell you like if you're buying one of those books, my encouragement would be to buy them so that nobody else can read them.

Because they're not useful and they're not helpful. Yeah. I think when when it comes to Scripture, I think our, our mindset should be like this. The, the plain thing should be the main thing, and the main thing should be the plain thing. And when it comes to that, I believe because we have a lot of Bibles that are written and in our language, English, and we have Bibles that we can have access to.

And I think if we know English and we know some grammar, we can read the words, we can study these words and the words that we need to, to, to see will come up off the page for us. I do I do truly believe that. Yes. And when it, when we read it, it should be it should be clear.

And when it's not so clear, it should not be our preoccupation that is not good for us. It's not healthy for us to be concerned with such things. I truly, I truly believe that we need to make sure when it comes to Scripture, that every book we read comes under the authority of Scripture and every scripture, every book that we read has it's aligning with the truth that comes out of Scripture, and vice versa for the books that we're reading, tell us, like, hey, like, I'm going to tell you what this scripture means in this scripture means there are good books out there.

There's just a lot of bad books to. Yeah. And then the last part of this verse is very interesting. It says in much studying, this is a weariness of the flesh. And the best way I can help you understand that is in Second Timothy chapter three verse seven, it says, always learning and never being able to arrive at a knowledge of truth.

There are so many people today that just spend so much time pursuing truth but never arriving at it. It's a it's an endless cycle. And maybe you're in that cycle today. Maybe you're maybe you're right there where you're trying to find out where truth is. And you've been searching for a long time and you've never said, I know the truth, that I can believe in, I know not not only can I believe in the Scripture that scriptures are true, but I can believe that that God is the God of creation and that Jesus is the son of the living God.

And I can put my faith and my trust in the name of Jesus, and you can arrive at those at those truths, and they're so helpful for us today. Oh, and there's so many people who are always inquiring and never arriving. And my encouragement is there needs to be under the sun as the physical body is breaking down.

And there's a finality to the end of life, which is death. And then we go to dust and the spirit goes to the Lord, and there's judgment again, it doesn't matter what you've done or how much study you've done, and the fact that you couldn't ever land on the truth that Jesus is the son of the living God.

And my hope for you today is to say, yes, I can believe in that truth, and I can put my faith and my trust and my hope in that truth today in every possible way. It's like somebody who says, hey, tell me, tell me how to get to the post office. And I say, well, if we just go out Broadway Road right here and go down past Power Road, the intersection, and just about a quarter mile down on your right hand side and on the right side of the road, you'll turn into the post office parking lot.

Well, I didn't mean the post office. Can you tell me how to get to the police station? And you say, well, I'll tell you how to get to the police station. You say, here, here's how to get to the police station. And then they say, no, I didn't want to go to the police station. I wanted to go to the airport.

And it's just this constant cycle like, hey, you're never going to arrive at the eventual truth that you need to arrive at. And Solomon's saying, listen, that is the weariness of the flesh. And we need to arrive and put our faith and our trust in our hope in the name of Jesus. And he sums up in chapter 12 and verse 13, and 14, the end of the matter.

All has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments. Say that with me, fear God and keep his commandments. Say it again. Fear. For this is the whole duty of man. He says, For God will bring every deed into judgment with every secret thing, whether good or evil. So in Luke chapter 12, Jesus speaking to a massive crowd.

There's so many people around him, I mean, trying to get connected to him. And that's not unusual for Jesus. So many people came around him for so many different reasons. Some came because they heard about this guy Jesus could do miracles and who was a good teacher. And some wanted to go because they didn't like the things that he heard that he was teaching.

And some wanted to just kind of be a part of the big crowd and be a part of what everybody else was being a part of. And so there's this huge crowd in and, Luke chapter 12, but listen to the words that Jesus says in verse two and three. He says, nothing is covered up that will not be revealed or hidden, that will not be known.

Whatever you say and whisper will be brought into light and proclaimed, do not fear those who kill the body, nothing else they can do. Fear the one who, after you die, has the authority to cast you to hell. I mean, that's just so practical for us. And he's echoing just what Solomon has said fear God and keep his commands, for everything will come to light.

And then in Luke chapter 23, we have the scene of the two criminals on each side of Jesus at the crucifixion. And the one criminal is mocking Jesus and, and, and just trying to be as discouraging to Jesus as he possibly can. And the other thief on the cross, he cries out to him. He says, and he asks him this question, don't you fear God?

Don't you fear God? Since you are under listen to what he says, since you are under the same power of condemnation, we go to dust. The spirit goes up for judgment. He says there's an appointment that you and I are going to have, and it's going to be the same as his. Don't you fear God? And he says to Jesus, he says, Jesus, remember me.

And Jesus says to him, today you will be with me in Paradise. And he helps him. So here's our question for us today. Do you fear God? Yes. Do you fear God? And I want to say to you to fear God, to know God, to trust God, and to love God are all the same thing. Think about being a child of God.

Think about the relationship that as children of God we have with the Heavenly Father and that relationship church, we recognize that oftentimes in that relationship, we are disobedient. We do what we want. We can be selfish. We can just out and right. We just reject the words of God Himself to us and in that, in that context, he would have every right to cast us out.

And yet we know because of his love, he did not do so.

We know that he wants to keep us close.

As children, I've had and you say, well, I am. I am a child of God. You may be a child of God by creation, simply because God is over all of creation. And everybody who has ever been born is a child of God. But you may not be a child of God by redemption and to be a part of the family of God.

We need to believe in the name of the one who saves Jesus and repent of our sins. Yeah, believe in the one who gives us access to the family to be a child of God. So what can we say this morning? And I would say to you, remember your creator while you still have a chance, fear God and keep his commands.

And that is the end of the matter. Let's pray. Father, we thank you for our time together today is so good when we gather as your church under the name of the one who saves. And father, my prayer today for us is that we, father can. Yes. In every way we remember our creator while we still have a chance.

Father, we recognize that in all these things that for us to fear God and and to keep his commands is so important for us. And every day that we live life under the sun. And father, I pray for anybody in this room today who needs to make a decision to make Jesus the Lord and Savior of their life.

I pray for that. For this to be the day of their salvation, that they will not put it off one more day, that they will arrive at truth. Father, we pray this today in Jesus name, Amen.

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