

## **The Bottom Line in the Quest for Meaning**

### **Intro & Review:**

- 1 – Motto: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity"
- 2 – This is no accident: It is a judgment of God (7:13)
- 3 – Point of view: "under the sun"
- 4 – God remains sovereign: God has "appointed" a day for everything.
- 5 – Remedy: Enjoy life as God's gift (2:25-26)

### **1 – The Teacher's Qualifications: (12:9-12)**

#### A. His method:

1. *taught the people knowledge - DAATH*
2. *pondered - AZAN*
3. *sought out - CHAZAR*
4. *set in order - NATHAN*

#### B. His product:

1. *delightful words -*
2. *accurate and true -*

#### C. His impact:

1. *goads -*
2. *nails -*

#### D. His source:

1. *One Shepherd (Ps. 80:1)*
2. *The Shepherd King (Ez. 34:23-24; 37:24-25)*

### **2 – The Teacher's Exhortations: (12:13-14)**

#### A. Warning: "beware of anything beyond these" (1 Cor. 4:6)

1. Dt. 29:29 – the secret things belong to God (cf. Heb. 1:1-2)
2. There is no end to the writing of books that go beyond what God has revealed. "Grappling with unanswerable questions brings exhaustion."

#### B. Fear God:

1. A theme he has woven throughout: 3:14; 5:7; 7:18; 8:12; 11:9
2. It's meaning:

#### C. Keep Commandments: (Gen. 22:12)

1. Reason one: "because this is the whole of man"
2. Reason two: "because God will bring every act to judgment"

### **Concluding Thoughts:**

## **YOUTH QUESTIONS**

1. WHY IS THE MOTTO VANITY OF VANITIES TRUE?
2. WHY IS LIFE LIKE THIS?
3. WHAT IS SOLOMON'S REMEDY? (Ecc. 2:25)
4. HOW DID SOLOMON STUDY WISDOM?
5. WHAT KINDS OF WORDS DID HE WRITE?
6. HOW IS GOD'S WORD LIKE GOADS AND NAILS?
7. WHAT IS THE WARNING IN VERSE 12?
8. WHAT IS IT TO FEAR GOD?
9. WHY IS OBEYING HIS COMMANDMENTS CONNECTED TO THE FEAR OF GOD?
10. WHAT ARE THE TWO REASONS SOLOMON GIVES FOR FEARING AND OBEYING?
11. ARE YOU CHASING THE WIND OR CONTENT IN JESUS?