

Who Sets Your Life's Agenda?

► INTRODUCTION

The question that every human being inherently asks: **WHO AM I?**

Who you are determines how you live: your life's agenda.

Some worldviews:

<p><u>We are souls trapped in physical bodies.</u> The truth is in us, what we feel within. Purpose: to be free from the tangible. “I am what I feel.” “I want to be free.” “I am a female trapped in a male body.”</p>	<p><u>We are simply physical bodies.</u> The truth is what is observable, what we can understand. Purpose: to enjoy the tangible. “I am free.” “There is no God.” “Life is only here & now. Live as you like.”</p>
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In both worldviews, the **SELF is at the center, setting the life's agenda.**

Our passage today tells us the only correct worldview.

Eccl. 12:1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth.

Who am I? I am a creature, created by the Creator.

You are created for a purpose. This determines how you should live.

Your creator sets your life's agenda.

This is why we are here, worshipping on the first day of the year.

Because I remember that I belong to my faithful Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I am created to glorify and enjoy him forever. He sets my life's agenda.

All the evils of the world stem from our desire to be the Creator. Setting our own agendas.

Solemn warning:

Deut. 8:18-19 ... Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

As we start off our year, God calls us to **remember our Creator in the days of our youth.**

- **Before the difficult days come (1b)**
- **Before old age comes (2-5)**
- **Before death comes (6-7)**

► Before the difficult days come (1b)

People forget that every good gift comes from the Father of lights (James 1:17).

Our toils yield results because of God's grace.

Our sleep gives us rest because of God's grace.

Apart from God's grace, we would have been extinct because of our own evil desires.

So, remember your God, before the difficult days come.

The difficult days are coming when you will hate life, saying, “I have no pleasure in them.”

But if you walk with God, even the darkness is not dark to him.

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come.

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► [Before old age comes \(2-5\)](#)

In NKJV, verse 2 begins with “while.” But the more accurate translation is “before.”

Eccl. 12:2 ESV Before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain.

The sun is mentioned 35 times in this book.

Under the sun: the created realm.

The sun faithfully rises and sets.

Eccl. 1:5 The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it arose.

But here, the preacher says that the sun will be darkened. There is **an end** to the created realm.

Similar description of the **last days** (Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:12-14).

Our old age is our last days, our death is the end of our world.

Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

Remember your Creator, call upon him, before:

3 <i>The keepers of the house tremble</i>	Arms and legs start to shake
<i>The strong men bow down</i>	Shoulders and back begin to bend
<i>The grinders cease because they are few</i>	Teeth are decaying
<i>Those that look through the windows grow dim</i>	Eyes are dimming
4 <i>The doors are shut in the streets</i>	Lips/mouth can hardly swallow, no appetite
<i>The sound of grinding is low</i>	Hearing is weakened
<i>When one rises up at the sound of a bird</i>	Difficulty sleeping, easily awakened
<i>All the daughters of music are brought low</i>	Voice ages, difficulty singing
5 <i>Afraid of height and of terrors in the way</i>	Becomes more fearful in life
<i>When the almond tree blossoms</i>	Hair losing its colour
<i>The grasshopper is a burden</i>	The lightest burden becomes hard
<i>Desire fails</i>	Desires of life weaken

These are all happening because man is dying, heading to **eternal home** (Eccl. 12:5).

There is an **end** to the created realm, but man has an **eternal home** to be.

Where is your eternal home?

Eccl. 11:8b ... Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes.

But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before you come to your old age.

► [Before death comes \(6-7\)](#)

Remember your Creator before the difficult days come.

Remember your Creator before old age comes.

If you still haven't today, you still have time.

Remember your Creator, before your death comes.

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Verses 6 and 7 picture our death.

<i>6 The silver cord is loosed</i>	What was once precious became worthless. What was once useful became useless.
<i>The golden bowl is broken</i>	
<i>The pitcher shattered at the fountain</i>	
<i>The wheel broken at the well</i>	

Eccl. 12:7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Verse 7 gives the answer to the philosophical question in the beginning.

We are not just spirits who need to be free from the body.

We are not just bodies who will vanish after death.

Both body and soul constitute our being.

We are eternal beings who must face God, our Creator and Judge.

*Eccl. 12:13-14 The end of the matter; all has been heard.
Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing,
whether good or evil.*

Because we are created in the image of God, the whole duty of man is to live for him.

The preacher calls on every human being to remember this duty.

Once you remember your Creator, you remember your duty, and you realize your inabilities.

Because since the fall of Adam, we are all under the curse of sin, unable to fulfill our duty.

We fail each and every day. Everything we do only merit us **hell** as our eternal home.

But the Bible also reveals that the Creator has come to be the salvation for his people.

Those who know him sing with Moses:

Exo. 15:2 "The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him."

Has God become your salvation?

Through nature and everything you experience in life, you meet God as the Creator and Judge.

Through the Gospel, you meet God as the Redeemer and Saviour in Jesus Christ.

He accomplishes the duty of man on behalf of his people, meriting **heaven** as our eternal home.

If you hear this message today, the Lord calls you to call on him.

Remember now your Creator, and call out to him to save you.

Psalms 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

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► Conclusion

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth!

He created you for a purpose: to glorify and enjoy him forever.

All pleasure is vanity without God.

If you are young and you think you still have plenty of time:

Eccl. 9:12 For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them."

If you are old or are already experiencing difficult days:

It's not too late. You are not dead yet. Call on him.

Practical applications:

How do you remember your Creator as you start off this new year?

1. Surrender your life to God. Let him be your God. Let his purpose be your life's agenda.
2. Enjoy your life with him. How can you enjoy him?
 - ☛ Take care of your soul: come feast with the saints. worship regularly, pray regularly.
 - ☛ Take care of your body: eat well, sleep well, work well, rest well.
 - ☛ Take care of each other's body and soul:
 - Pray for one another.
 - Help them in their spiritual and physical needs.
 - ☛ Take care of those who are lost:
 - Pray for their salvation.
 - Share the gospel.
 - Live as an ambassador of Christ.

Let Christ set your life's agenda!

May everything you think, you plan, and you do be in the name of Christ Jesus.