

1. THE CALL TO DECISION & EPILOGUE: Chs 11 & 12 The Venture of Faith; The Life of Joy; Hearing the Voice of God

Chapter 11 vs 1-6: **The Venture of Faith**

Q 1: Another well-known saying – ‘Cast your bread upon the waters..’ What does this mean ?

Q 2: v 2 : What does this mean ?

Q 3: vs 3-6 : What is the meaning of these verses ? They appear to be ‘trueisms’. Some are moderated by modern discovery, but the overall theme is true. How are we to put these into practice in our lives?

Chapter 11 vs 7-10 : **The Life of Joy**

Q 4: It is said that when one is old, one becomes a caricature of who one was when young. Vs 9 is advocating happiness in Youth, but what dangers are there in this advice? (see also Ch 12 v 1) Summarise what should be our plan through life.

Chapter 12 vs 1-8 : **Hearing the Voice of God** cf Psalm 95, and especially vs 7-8; Heb Ch 3 v 15

Q 5: The final, parting advice of the Preacher returns to the theme of all temporal things being meaningless and vain. However, his advocacy to have joy in the eternal, especially whilst young, remains. These beautiful, melancholy verses speak deeply. What comfort should we draw from these words?

Chapter 12 vs 9-12: **Epilogue**

Q 6: This section is written as a narrative to the words of the Preacher, as if to add an obituary to him and his words. Who is the One Shepherd (v 11)? These words are considered sufficient, not to be augmented (v 12. See also Rev 22 vs 18-19) Why? What examples are there of detraction and augmentation of these words of Wisdom? **‘Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body’**. What do you make of this?

Q 7: Chapter 12 vs 13-14: This is the summary of all teachings. What do we make of our religiosity and devotion in the light of these verses? What really matters to us in the grand scheme of things?

