

# Messages Since our Last “Conversations”

## **Death, Vanity and the Reaper**

**Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14**

Solomon describes death as if he wants us to feel it and not deny it.

It's through “the fear of death” that the devil keeps us in “lifelong bondage.”

The fear of death explains all manner of evil.

To refuse to lose your life—your psyche—is to refuse to love.

The fear of death causes us to psychically run and hide from “the reaper.”

Religion even offers to help us do so, by promising that some can escape judgment.

But, according to Solomon, all get judged in one judgment and, even, one Man.

The Judgment of God is Creation. To hide from the Judgment is un-creation.

Death is not the Reaper. Life is the Reaper. You're friend Jesus is the Reaper.

Don't fear the Reaper—except long enough to hear Him say, *“Fear not... I died and look, I am alive forevermore.”*

You are like a caterpillar striving after the wind—that's vanity.

You will be a butterfly forever riding the Wind—that's the Judgment of God.

The Judgment of God is that you will lose your life and find it.

## **What God Wants From You**

**Ecclesiastes 12:8-14**

*“Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole of the Adam,”* writes Solomon, *“God will bring every deed into judgment...”*

But Solomon already told us that all our “deeds” were evil, and God “does everything.”

What does God want from us? . . . Why does God judge us?

Saint Paul answers in Romans, quoting David, Solomon's father:

*“That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you (God) are judged.”*

God wants us to see His Judgment and so justify Him when we judge Him.

With His Judgment, God creates Faith in Himself in us.

With His Judgment, God creates Wisdom in us.

With His Judgment upon David and Bathsheba, God created Solomon.

Fearless, Faithful Love is the Commandment of God and the Wisdom of God.

Fear is the beginning of Wisdom, but Wisdom is the end of fear.

What God wants from us is what He is in the process of giving us.

He wants Faith, which is Wisdom, which is Christ in us.

He wants you to like Him. This is the completion of Adam.

## Possible questions to ponder:

- ✓ What is death?
- ✓ If it is an absence of life, what is life?
- ✓ In what sense are we dead already? (*“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.”* Colossians 2:13)
- ✓ What is the “death of death, the second death?” (*“Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire...and death shall be no more.”* Rev. 20:14, 21:4)
- ✓ *“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”* –Hebrew 2:14-15
- ✓ What is “the power of death” and how does, or did, the devil have it?
- ✓ Are we dead, but terrified to die, which is actually to live?
- ✓ How have you experienced this terror?
- ✓ How has it kept you in bondage?
- ✓ How, when and where have you experienced release from this bondage?



- ✓ Why did God put that tree in the middle of the garden, “subject creation to futility,” and “consign all to disobedience?” Why do we have to die?
- ✓ Have you “Justified... God’s Judgment (Romans 3:4)?” How did it happen? How does it happen? When and where did and does it happen?
- ✓ When and where do you feel really alive?