

REJOICE IN THY YOUTH

Int.

1. Aim: To show what young people must do to be able to rejoice in their youth.
2. Text: Ecl. 11:9-12:1 **"Rejoice, O young man in thy youth"**
 - a. Rejoice - be happy
 - b. How? Remove v. 10 & Remember 12:1
3. **"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."** Eccl. 11:9
 - a. Rejoice, O young man in thy youth
 - b. Let thy heart cheer thee all the days of thy youth
 - c. Walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes
 - d. But know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into Judgement
4. Context - Ecl.12:2-14
 - a. Verses 2-7 describe the cycle of life and death
 - b. Verses 8-11 give encouragement for listening to others
 - c. Verse 12 tells us that study is hard
 - d. Verses 13-14 concludes with the advice to Fear God and Keep His Commandments.
5. Young people were highly regarded in the Bible and very important
 - a. Daniel along with Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego stood by their convictions. They took a stand even when they were young.
 - b. Joseph was a young man who resisted temptation and followed the right way.
 - c. David was a young man when God called him. David became a giant killer, a gloom chaser, a psalm writer, and a powerful ruler.
 - d. God has always called upon young people - He needs youth today !
6. Solomon's advice is for young people to rejoice in their youth! Young people could be happy and remain happy if they would simply follow this advice of the wise man Solomon.

Remove sorrow & Remember thy Creator

Discussion**I. REMOVE SORROW AND EVIL IN YOUTH**

Eccl. 11:10 **"Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity."**

A. Sorrow & Evil

1. Sow wild oats
 - a. Live any way that they desire
 - b. Some young people say that it doesn't make any difference about how they conduct their life.
2. Youth comes but once
 - a. Well we are only young once -- used as an excuse to do things that are wrong
 - b. Youth will not last forever
3. God will judge

B. Remove sorrow & Evil

1. Gal. 6:7-8 we reap according to the way we have sown
 - a. Sow to flesh then reap of flesh
 - b. In the judgement it will make a difference how we have conducted our life.
Heb. 9:27
2. It is true that we are only young once - so use those years to make for the best possible life in the future.
 - a. Use your youth wisely - A philosopher once said "The greatest part of mankind employ their first years to make their last ones miserable."
 - b. Eph.6:3 **"That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."**
 - c. Young people going down the road of sin living it up will pay for their sins in later years. Num. 32:23 **"...and be sure your sin will find you out."**
3. Young people do not have to sow any wild oats - Sinful!!

C. During youth build:

1. Foundations of a good life -
 - a. Belief in God
 - b. Belief in Bible as word of God
2. Start good habits and right values
 - a. Daily Bible Reader
 - b. Worship Regular
 - c. Watch your morals
3. Form good thinking habits.
4. Live a good life

II. **REMEMBER THY CREATOR IS THE WAY TO REJOICE IN THY YOUTH** Ecl. 12:1

A. REMEMBER THY CREATOR IN DAYS OF YOUTH

1. Recognize the origin of life - Gen. 1
2. Acts 17:28-29 - offspring of God **"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."**
3. Learning this in youth is necessary to form the proper foundation
4. The fact that we can think is proof that we were made by God
5. When we learn that God made us we will not act as animals, but as creatures made in the image of God
6. We should teach this to our children from an early age -
 - a. II Tim. 3:15
 - b. A child can absorb the ideas and examples around them
 - c. You can't begin too early
7. If you don't remember God in your youth, you may never remember!!

B. Recognize that life is a gift and is brief

1. Jas.4:14-15 "**Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.**"
2. Life is short and uncertain - Ps. 90:10
3. Ill. Visitor came at close of day and man was taking notes at his desk. Finished it up and got ready to leave. Then he said, "There I'm ready. If I don't wake up everything will be in order."
4. Because life is short and uncertain we must have everything in order.
5. That is one thing that will help us to rejoice in our youth.

C. How to Set your Life in Order:

1. **Become a Christian**

- a. Obey the Gospel from the heart - Rom. 6:17 = sincere, not hypocritical
- b. Christians are to have an abundant life - Jn.10:10
- c. You can't really be happy living in sin!!!

2. **Play fair with your parents**

- a. Honor your parents - Eph.6:1
 - (1) They love you - they have loved you since a baby - even before birth
 - (2) They want the best in life for you - they have cared for you many years.
 - (3) Parents will sometimes say "NO" because they love you
- b. Obey your parents
 - (1) Respect the deadlines - be in even before the deadline
 - (2) Don't fuss and cry over every thing that doesn't go your way
- c. Eph. 6:1-3 It will be well with you when you honor and obey your parents -- the implication is that it will not be well if we disobey
- d. If you will play fair with your parents it will allow you to rejoice in your youth.

3. Honor the Aged

- a. Advantages of being young
 - (1) Healthy = Vigorous & interested
 - (2) Body and mind ready to be trained
- b. Disadvantages of youth
 - (1) Immaturity - Ecl.11:10 "...**for childhood and youth are vanity.**"
 - (2) Inexperienced - Lack of wisdom
- c. Advantages of age
 - (1) Maturity
 - (2) Experience
 - (3) Wisdom
- d. This should lead young people to honor the aged or respect them
 - (1) Old people are not out of date
 - (2) Age causes people to have had experiences that youth has never had.
 - (3) Rehoboam is an example of a man who rejected wisdom of the older men. --
They lost 10 of the 12 tribes.
- e. Young people will never regret respecting older people!
 - (1) Lev. 19:32 **"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord."**
 - (2) Lam. 4:16 **"The anger of the Lord hath divided them; he will not more regard them: they respected not the persons of the priests, they favoured not the elders."**
- f. Young people should listen to older people! They know what happens to people who begin drinking alcoholic beverages. They know that if you engage in adultery it will bring heartaches, because they know of people who have been hurt.
- g. If you honor the older folks then you will be able to rejoice in thy youth.

Conclusion

1. Rejoice in thy youth Ecl. 11:9 How? Remove and Remember
2. Remove sorrow and evil - give up all sinful habits and lifestyles I Tim. 6:11 **"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness"**
 - a. Obey the gospel and live as a faithful Christian - not a hypocrite
 - b. Strive to be a happy christian every day
3. Ecl. 11:9 **"Rejoice, o young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth,..."**
 - a. No one wants to rob you of the joy of life
 - b. God wants what is best for you. So follow His advice:
 - i. Remove sorrow and Evil - by living a godly life not ungodly
 - ii. Remember thy creator in the days of thy youth - become a Christian and live as a child of God.
 - c. Then you can Rejoice in thy youth:
4. Ecl. 12:1 **"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them:"**