

b. _____: *experience life (v. 9b) — judgment restrains the libertine*

c. _____: *remove vexations (v. 10) — aging appreciates the moment*

Summary:

- Knowledge of death → wisdom in rejoicing
- Knowledge of judgment → wisdom in reveling
- Knowledge of aging → wisdom in relaxing

Application:

Practically, what can we do to “remember now our Creator,” the starting point of fearing God and living wisely?

CONCLUSION

If we want to walk wisely among the futility of life “under the sun,” then we must practice the fundamental of “fearing God” (cf. 12:13) in our enterprise and our enjoyment. Indeed, “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

Book:	Ecclesiastes
Series:	Two Ways to Live: Under the Sun or In the Fear of God
Lesson 15:	Wisdom & the Fear of God
Text:	Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8
Date:	Sunday, May 12, 2013
Next Lesson:	Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

INTRODUCTION

The fear of God is fundamental to a life of wisdom. In fact, Solomon almost stated it that way when he wrote in Proverbs 9:10, “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**, and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.” Our passage for today illustrates this fundamental connection between understanding/fearing God and responding in wise practice. These verses dichotomize life into two simple divisions—work and play or enterprise and enjoyment—and in both areas the Teacher shows us how **being rightly related to God** (i.e., what we’ll call the “fear of God aspect”) **aids us in the right practice** (i.e., what we’ll call the “wisdom aspect”).

THE FEAR OF GOD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM IN OUR _____ (11:1-6).

1. **Fear of God aspect: what we _____ about God's work**

a. _____: **we don't know what (vv. 1-2)**

b. _____: **we don't know when (vv. 3-4)**

c. _____: *we don't know how (v. 6)*

Application:

2. *Wisdom aspect: what we should _____ in our enterprise*

a. _____: *spread broadly (vv. 1-2)*

b. _____: *don't delay (vv. 3-4)*

c. _____: *work hard (v. 6)*

Summary:

- Limited knowledge about trouble → wisdom in investing
- Limited knowledge about timing → wisdom in planning
- Limited knowledge about triumph → wisdom in laboring

Application:

**THE FEAR OF GOD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM
IN OUR _____ (11:7-12:7).**

1. *Fear of God aspect: what we _____ about God's will*

a. _____: *we all face death (11:8)*

b. _____: *we all await judgment (11:9)*

c. _____: *we all grow old (12:1-8)*

Application:

2. *Wisdom aspect: what we should _____ in our enjoyment*

a. _____: *chose joy (vv. 7-9a) —
death challenges the melancholy*