The Whole Duty Of Man

Intro: Solomon was known as the wisest man to ever live. In Ecclesiastes, also called The Preacher, Solomon went through all that is in this world without God and concluded it was vanity or worthless. In the last two verse, Solomon draws his final conclusion; Ecc. 12:13-14 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

I. Fear God
   A. We are to be afraid of God.
      1. No one can deny the fact of fear as a motivating factor in life.
         a. Children obey parents because of being afraid of being punished.
         b. We do not stand in the middle of the railroad track when a train is coming because of being afraid of what the train can do to us.
      2. Psa. 89:7 “God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.”
      3. Mat. 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
      4. Heb. 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
      5. Heb. 12:29 “For our God is a consuming fire.”

   B. We are to have respect for God (to show respect for Him).
      1. Psa. 89:7 “God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.”
      2. 2 Cor. 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
      3. Heb. 12:9, 28 “Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?... Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”

II. Keep His Commandments
      1. In order to be saved:
         a. We must believe:
            (1) Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
            (2) Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
            (3) John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
         b. We must repent:
            (1) Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
(2) Luke 13:3 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

(3) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

c. **We must confess:**
   (1) Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
   (2) Acts 8:37 “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

d. **We must be baptized:**
   (1) Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   (2) Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

2. **In order to remain saved:**
   a. **We must remain faithful; continue to walk in His way.**
      (1) Mat. 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”
      (2) Rom. 6:11-13 “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”
   b. **Endure hardship**
      (1) Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
      (2) Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

III. **Because Of The Judgment**

A. **There is a judgment:**
   1. Rom. 14:12 “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”
   2. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
   3. Rev. 22:12 “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

B. **Those who have not kept God’s commands:**
   1. 2 Thes. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
   2. Mark 9:43-48 “And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two eyes to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter amputated into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”
enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

C. Those who have kept God’s Words

1. Mat. 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

2. John 5:28-29 “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

3. 1 Thes. 4:13-18 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

Conclusion: Do you fear God and have you kept His commands?