

THE PUZZLE OF LIFE
Ecclesiastes 1:12-14, NIV
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I. Solomon's Frame of Reference

- a. Secular: "under the sun (heaven)", ch 1-2
- b. God was on the shelf
- c. Result: all was vanity and meaningless
- d. The frame was wrong

II. Resetting the Frame

- a. I am created by God
 - God must be the focus of my life (Eccl 12:14 - "Remember the creator in the days of your youth.")
 - Not just intellectual assent, but life commitment (James 1:19 - "You believe that there is one God. Good. Even the demons believe that and shudder.")
 - Not casual belief but primary focus
- b. I am created for a purpose: to please God
 - Eccl. 12:13 – "Now all has been heard: here is the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep his commandments."
- c. The Bible is the picture to put the puzzle together
 - Psalms 119:105 – "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
- d. View of eternity
 - Eccl 3:11 – "He has made everything beautiful in it's time. He has also set eternity in the human heart."
 - Look at the whole picture – present and future
 - Remember God before years are gone and death is near judgment (Eccl 12:14)
 - Lamentations 1:9 – "...she did not consider her future."