

## The End of the Matter

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 [Page 1048]

### Taking it Home:

1. In retrospect, how do you respond to the reflections in this book?

2. Which discussion had the most impact on your thinking? How do you think its author would want you to apply his work to your life? How do you think God would?

### Prayer Concerns:

#### A. Looking back at what we've learned. [9-10]

“\_\_\_\_\_ in our search has \_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_ we are offered \_\_\_\_\_ is  
\_\_\_\_\_.” [Derek Kidner]

#### B. God's Word \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us. [11-12]

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”*

[2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT]

#### C. The secret of life. [13-14]

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*To fear God is to honor and revere Him, and to worship Him as God. This is what life is all about.*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_.

*“For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” [Acts 17:31]*

## Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

### Getting Started:

1. What is your view now of the book of Ecclesiastes? Has it altered now that we have reached the end of the book?

### Digging Deeper:

#### Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

1. What are some of the most memorable passages or statements from the book of Ecclesiastes? Why do you find them so memorable?
2. Reread verses 11 and 12. Is the Bible a goad in your life? Think back on how you were a year ago or five years ago. In what ways are you different today? How has the truth of God's Word transformed your life? Share one or two specific areas where God has been changing you.
3. Verse 12b says, "*Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.*" Solomon's point is that learning finds its ultimate value only in the light of the knowledge of God. How can you see this illustrated in Paul's address before the Greek philosophers in Acts 17:22-34? How should his example counsel us in our effort to help people come to know the one true God?
4. Reread verses 13 and 14. What does it mean to fear and obey God? Is there a difference between an unhealthy and healthy fear of the Lord? What is our motivation for obeying God?
5. Are you preparing for judgment? What changes will you make to your life in light of this study of Ecclesiastes?