

## June 21 Answers

- 1) Last of Solomon's reflections. Many people say, "I don't want to serve God! God doesn't let you have any **fun!**" But God said, "Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the **impulses** of your heart and the **desires** of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to **judgment** for all these things" (Ecc 11:9 NASB). God knows that a joyful life is a **balanced** life, and He wants us to enjoy our liberty **responsibly**, for that is the only way to lasting happiness and success. Solomon charged us to "**remember** also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Ecc 12:1). Those who live a full life cannot avoid **old** age, and Solomon painted a striking picture of what it's like to grow old. The body begins to shut down, and even the simplest things become difficult (cf. Ecc 12:3 on eating). This reality gives a serious significance to our daily decisions. We need to be living **wisely** now so that we're prepared for the days which lie ahead. All this points to a consistent theme throughout Ecclesiastes: those who live "under the sun" must look "**beyond** the sun" to find lasting happiness and peace. It is only when we live in a right relationship with God that we affirm what Solomon said is the end of the matter: "**Fear** God and **keep** his commandments, for this is the whole **duty** of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecc 12:13–14).