



## 08.14.16 | I DID IT MY WAY | ECCLESIASTES 11

### 1. THE QUESTION OF CONTROL...

- My tendency is to want to control life and do it my way.  
*Isaiah 55:8*
- The end of the matter is to fear God and keep His commandments.  
*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*

### 2. LIVING LIFE UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY...

- Live with boldness and wisdom.  
*Ecclesiastes 11:1-2*
- Be content with the blessings God provides.  
*Ecclesiastes 11:3-4*
- Allow the uncertainties of life to deepen your faith in God.  
*Ecclesiastes 11:5*
- Live and die without regrets.  
*Ecclesiastes 11:6*
- Be certain to enjoy life today.  
*Ecclesiastes 11:7-8*
- Honor God and pursue good things.  
*Ecclesiastes 11:9-10*

## FURTHER STUDY

1. Read Eccl. 11:1-2 and Luke 19:11-27. The Bible has a lot to say about being both wise and generously bold stewards of the gifts God has given us. We are to be wise but not hold too tightly to our resources. How does what we believe and what we do not believe about God affect how we use our money, time, or talents?
2. Read verses 1-6. Think about the financial decisions you have made in the last 12 months. How does your personality and tendency to be either a risk-taker or a cautious-controller show through in the decisions you make with regard to your resources? How might a deepening faith in God's sovereignty and redeeming grace help bring you to a more balanced place?
3. Read Eccl. 11:3-4. These verses are about being observant and planning or acting based on what you see. What examples of this truth can you think of from our modern world?
4. One of the most powerful aspects of a church family is that we get to help each other see blind spots. What is obvious to you isn't always obvious to someone else. Who are you close enough to that you trust them to help you see your spiritual blind spots?
5. The author admits in verses 5 and 6 that there are things about the work of God that we can't understand or explain. What do you feel when you think about the unknowable work and will of God: awe, frustration, doubt, etc.? How do you come to terms with things about God and His ways that you can't understand?
6. How has God's "track record" in your life helped to build your faith and trust in Him for your current and even future situations where you can't see what He is doing?
7. Read verse 7-10. Verses 7 and 8 point out that the number of days in our lives under the sun is much fewer than the number of days after we are dead. In what areas of your life do you need a reminder to enjoy yourself because life is short? How might enjoying life actually be a good evangelistic tool?

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