***Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. 14For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.***

Last week, we were in Micah 6 and, there in verse 8, we found a verse of scripture that doesn’t whisper, but shouts to the depths of our souls and echoes back up the canyon walls of our life - *He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?* God requires, He doe not whisper, He does not sigh, but requires – do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him – this is what is good. He has shown us, He has shown us, He has shown us oh man.

Now, we’re with Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12. Solomon, the son of King David, known for his wisdom. In 1 Kings 3, Solomon prayed for an understanding heart to discern good from evil. Verse 10 says – the speech pleased the Lord. 1 Kings 3:12God speaks to Solomon *behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.* The wisest man to ever live now speaks to us as he approaches the end of his life and this is how he concludes what the whole duty of a human is – Verse 13 starts - *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter*. We mustn’t think of this as Solomon concluding only the Book of Ecclesiastes, or even concluding all of his wise sayings. No. This has the idea of summing up all the wisdom of all people written or spoken through the ages. Let us hear the termination of every part of this matter. This is Christ’s requirement of us every single day.

Verse 13 finishes - *Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all.* I prefer the King James rendering here *– Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.* Duty, that’s a word people don’t like to talk about much anymore. We want to believe God owes us, not that we have a duty to the God that saved us through the sacrifice of His Son. But rest assured, this is our all, our whole duty, and it sums up our walk – **Reverence God and keep His commandments**. Revere, fear, morally respect, God. In John 14:15, Jesus, God incarnate, says - *If you love Me, keep My commandments*. What are those commandments? Matthew 22:37-40 *Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”* That sounds like do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Love God, revere Him with all we are, and love our neighbor.

Verse 14 *For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.* We will give account – Matthew 12:36 Jesus says - *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.* And Paul writes in Romans 14:12 *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.* Every idle word, every secret thing done in darkness, every work brought into judgement. We will all one day stand in the Presence of God and be judged. Our only Hope is Jesus, who 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us *For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* Without Jesus, we stand before a Perfect God to be judged, taking His wrath upon ourselves or we cry out to Jesus and He covers us that we might stand before God. Rest assured, all will be judged. The only question is – will Jesus be there by you or not?

Last week, we heard what God requires of us. Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Today, we hear the conclusion of the whole matter - Our whole duty is to Fear and Reverence God, striving to keep His commandments, not just on Sunday, but all days. Are walking daily with God, keeping His requirements and pursuing our duty with all we are? The wisest man to ever live, no one was like him before and no one will be like him after says – this is the conclusion of the whole matter. Have we agreed with this conclusion, have we heard Jesus, as God tells us in Matthew 17:5, and are we pursuing God with all we are night and day? One day, we will give account and the accounting will be based on God’s requirements, our reverence for Him, our dedication to duty, and our pursuit of His Son. It is our all. How are we doing?