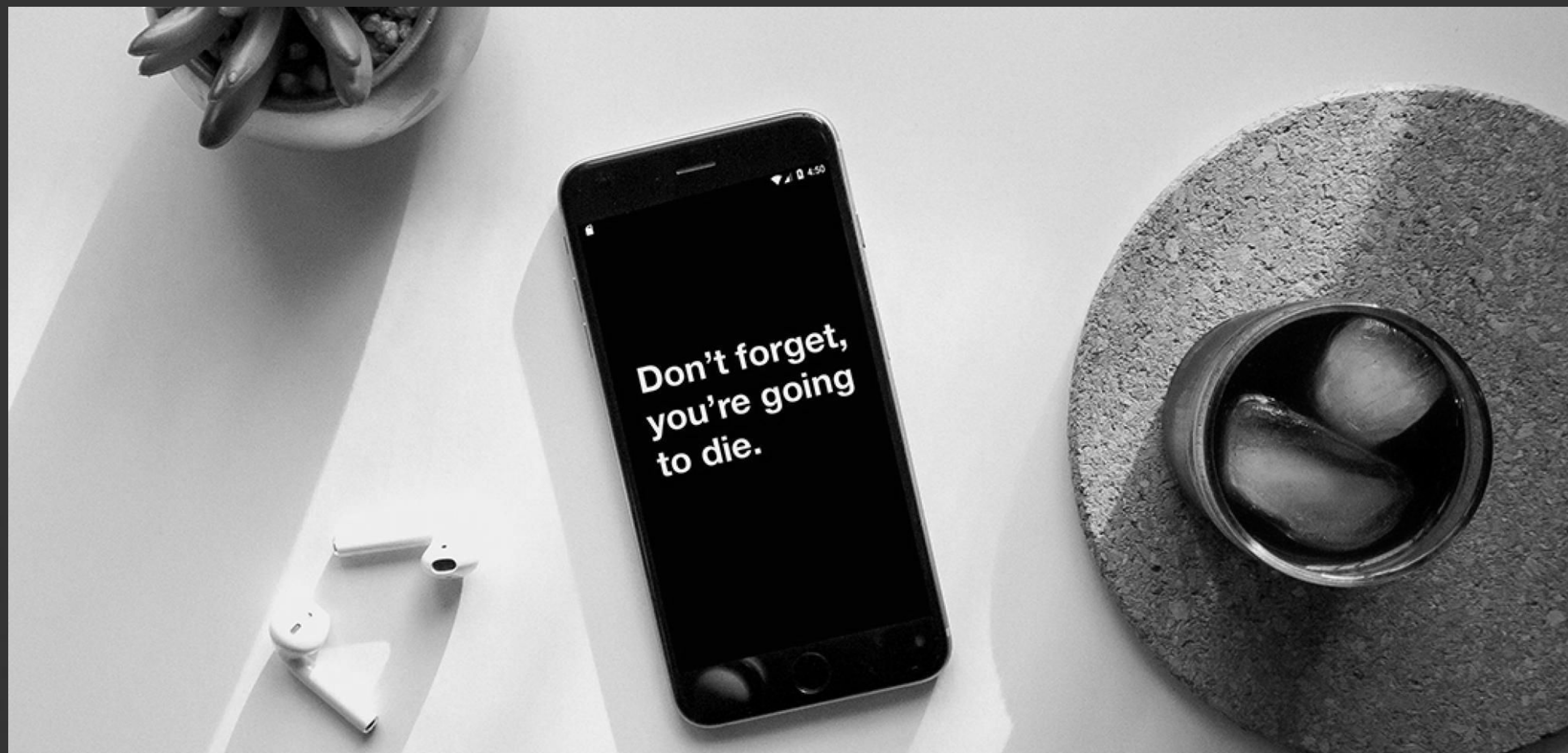




ECCLESIASTES



A black and white photograph of a hand holding a pen, with the text "Memory is fading." overlaid in a white serif font. The image is framed by a white border.

*Memory is fading.*

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a glass, with a white rectangular box overlaid on the center containing text.

*Time is brief, so see the beauty.*

*Death is fixed, so enjoy life.*

*Toil is temporary, so see eternity.*

ECCLESIASTES 12:1 *esv*

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”...

ECCLESIASTES 12:1<sup>a</sup>-7 *esv*

Remember... <sup>2</sup> before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, <sup>3</sup> in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, <sup>4</sup> and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—

<sup>5</sup> they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— <sup>6</sup> before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, <sup>7</sup> and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

ECCLESIASTES 12:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> Remember...
- <sup>2-7</sup> before it all comes undone...
- <sup>8</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; *all is vanity.*

ECCLESIASTES 12:11<sup>a</sup> *esv*

The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails  
firmly fixed are the collected sayings;



**ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14** *esv*

The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the whole duty of man.

<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.



*“God is the only comfort, He is also the supreme terror: the thing we most need and the thing we most want to hide from. He is our only possible ally, and we have made ourselves His enemies. Some people talk as if meeting the gaze of absolute goodness would be fun. They need to think again. They are still only playing with religion. Goodness is either the great safety or the great danger - according to the way you react to it. And we have reacted the wrong way.”*

*- C.S. LEWIS “Mere Christianity”*

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-3 *esv*

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup> that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup> Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9 *esv*

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

DEUTERONOMY 6:10-11 *esv*

“And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build,<sup>11</sup> and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full...

DEUTERONOMY 6:12-15 *esv*

...then **take care lest you forget the Lord**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>13</sup> It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. <sup>14</sup> You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— <sup>15</sup> for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

*Memory is fading,  
so fear God.*

RHYTHM *of* MEDITATION

