

# Ecclesiastes 9

## LESSON 10

### *Living with Death*

#### 1. Ecclesiastes 9:1-3 – One event happens to all

- a. 8:15 – Paul alludes to Ecclesiastes if this life is all there is... 1 Cor 15:32
- b. 8:17- Man cannot find out the work of God... “in the hand of God”
- c. “*I considered ... even to declare*” – Should he make it known?
- d. “*in the hand of God*” – Not by any strict law or design under the sun
  - i. God must be brought in to make any sense of anything.
- e. “*no man knoweth...*” – We can know God, but not his love or hate – Rom 1:20
- f. The one event that happens to all is death – there is no difference.

#### 2. Ecclesiastes 9:4-6 – Living better than dead

- a. There is hope of what? Time, chance, justice, good, pleasure, wisdom, etc.
- b. To be alive is to be able to do and change and be. Dead is separate from this world.
- c. We are sitting in a morgue, and he is saying “it’s better to be alive”
  - i. Though he said death was better in Ecc 6:5, 7:1
- d. 9:5 – “know not anything” – because they are dead (see above)
  - i. Is this annihilationism, soul sleep? It contradicts its own context.
  - ii. No... it contradicts the revelation we have about consciousness after death: Matt 12:40, 17:2-3, 22:31-32; Luke 16:19-31; Luke 23:43; 1Th 5:10, 2Cor 5:6-8, 2Cor 12:2-4, Phi 1:23, Rev 6:9-11
  - iii. Death is a separation – body is not the soul – sleep never refers to the soul

#### 3. Ecclesiastes 9:7-10 – You are alive. Live Joyfully.

- a. Alive is better than dead... so...eat, drink, be merry.
- b. “accepteth thy works” before judgment, death, etc. thus 9:8
- c. 9:9 – is the same advice as Prov 5:18, 18:22, 19:14 about marriage = it is good
  - i. The only time “live joyfully” shows up in the Bible
- d. 9:10 – “*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do*” – 1 Cor 10:31, Col 3:23
  - i. “*no work, knowledge, wisdom in the grave*” – because your portion is up

#### 4. Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 – Time and Chance

- a. The rules of success are not hard and fast, it may not happen the way you plan.
- b. The days are evil, why? Solomon says. There is sin and death. – redeem the time.
- c. “*time and chance*” – a real thing, Deu 22:6, 1 Sam 6:9, Luke 10:31
  - i. God is not the pagan Luck, Fate, but chance occurs
- d. Perhaps (2 Cor 2:7), happen, peradventure (32x) – Gen 18:24-32, 2 Tim 2:24;
- e. 9:12 – We do not know our time, we are caught in a snare in life – we can have peace with God when we set our affections on things above – Col 3:2-3, Rom 5:2-3

## Eating and Drinking in Ecclesiastes

Eating, drinking, and enjoying the fruit of our hands is a gift of God under the sun, and Solomon points this out. Though Solomon often saw nothing better, Jesus taught the kingdom of God (which is not in meat or drink) to be better in Luke 12:19-20, and Paul taught resurrection to be “far better” in Phil 1:21 and 1 Cor 15:32. By trusting in the living God and his purpose, we can glory in him when we eat, drink, and with what work we choose to enjoy (1 Tim 6:17; 1 Cor 10:31).

1. **Ecc 2:24-26 – No better lasting pleasure than to eat, drink... and enjoy...**
  - a. *“Nothing better for a man, than that he should eat, and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour.”*
  
2. **Ecc 3:12-13 – The gift of God is the time we have.**
  - a. *“There is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life, and also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.”*
  
3. **Ecc 3:22 – Don’t know the future? Rejoice in what you have and what you’ve done.**
  - a. *“There is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him”*
  
4. **Ecc 5:18-20 – To eat and drink and enjoy is our portion.**
  - a. *“What I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.”*
  
5. **Ecc 8:15 – No justice? No control? Eat, drink, and be merry.**
  - a. *“Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.”*
  
6. **Ecc 9:7-9 – You are alive. You are not dead, yet. Eat, drink, and be merry.**
  - a. *“Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.”*