



THE WISDOM OF ECCLESIASTES

07.31.16 | A LIFE OF SIGNIFICANCE | ECCLESIASTES 9

1. THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL IS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ENOUGH.

Ecclesiastes 9:1-2

- Our lives are in the hands of God.
- We all face one certainty, death.

2. UNDER THE SUN, PURSUE SIGNIFICANCE RATHER THAN COMFORT.

Ecclesiastes 9:3-6

- Pursue significance in simple pleasures as a gift from God.
Ecclesiastes 9:7; Psalm 104:14-16
- Pursue significance by blessing others as the Holy Spirit leads.
Ecclesiastes 9:8
- Pursue significance in the joy and toil of deep relationships.
Ecclesiastes 9:9
- Pursue significance in your work.
Ecclesiastes 9:10
- Pursue significance with the end in mind.
Ecclesiastes 9:11-12
- Pursue significance with the wisdom God provides.
Ecclesiastes 9:13-17
- Pursue significance by surrendering to God's truth.
Ecclesiastes 9:18

FURTHER STUDY

1. Read Eccl. 9:1-6. In this passage, what is the one event that happens to all people regardless of whether they are righteous or wicked, good or evil, clean or unclean?
2. Our position at work, in our families, in our social groups, etc. may be low like a dog compared to a lion, but all living beings have reason to hope. What do you think the hope for the living is in verse 4?
3. How is the hope of the living under the sun only a shadow of the Hope that is to be found beyond the sun?
4. If you think back over the whole book of Ecclesiastes you can see a progression from despair to hope that has only begun to take shape in the last couple of chapters. It seems counterintuitive that the pleasures of the most wealthy and wise ruler ever were found to be vanity, and that only in thinking about the inevitability of death has the author found hope. What do you think is changing for him?
5. Read Eccl. 9:7-10. Clearly the hope that we have seen emerging in the author's writing has not fully taken shape. When you read verse 7 followed by verse 10, the disconnect Solomon has become a little more clear. What good news is clear for us in the New Testament that helps us to see the afterlife differently than the author does in verse 10?
6. In Solomon's example of "wisdom under the sun" in verses 13-16 why do you think the wise man's great deed for the city was so quickly forgotten?
7. In his writings Solomon likes to draw parallels, either explicit or implied, between true wisdom and Jesus or God's Word. What parallels like that can you see in verses 13-18 of this chapter? (See also Proverbs 8 for more examples.)

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