

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 16/11/25

Sermon: Ted Rastatter / Living in the Face of Death

Text: Ecc 9:1-18

Questions: Jerry Shiver

In this week's message, Ted continues to explore King Solomon's (the Preacher) observations of life under the sun, life in a fallen world, post Eden. The Preacher asks what is the point of all this? How can man find satisfaction in this life he has been given? He looks at everything people can do under the sun, all kinds of jobs, all kinds of pleasures and concludes all this stuff does not satisfy. It is all vanity, smoke, meaningless. So what does satisfy? The Preacher starts to go from observing all these things to how to do life under the sun. Ted gave eight points from chapter 7 for navigating life with wisdom and last week Phil highlighted the importance of trusting God's chosen leaders, timing, and peace. This week, the Preacher focuses on our common destiny in death, how will we live in the face of death?

Main Points for: Living in the Face of Death

- Feast
- Love
- Serve

Discussion Questions

1. Death. Read v2-6 & 11-12, Gen 3: 19, and Rom 3:23 and discuss our common destiny. Does this certainty impact your daily choices on how you live? Ted asked "You've got a year that your expiration date is one year from today. What would you do with that time?" How would you answer? How would you handle this discussion with an unbeliever?
2. Feast. Discuss the importance of food throughout scripture, the Passover meal (Exo 12:8-13) eaten so that death would pass over the Jews and deliver them from slavery and the Passover celebration that Jesus chose to inaugurate the New Covenant (Jn 6:35, Matt 26:26-28, 1 Co 11:23-26). Read v7-8 and compare to Isa 25:6 and Rev 19:7-9. How might this help us to reach unbelievers?
3. Love. Read v9. The preacher uses the example of marriage here but Ted expands that to relationships overall and describes this love as God's gift to mankind. Read Eph 3:10-12, Jn 4:17, Col 3:12-14, 1 Cor 13:1-7. As image bearers of God, why should this be important to us individually, as part of the body of Christ? How or how not have our Community Groups helped us achieve this loving relationship?
4. Serve. Read v10, 13-16. Here the Preacher gives an example of a poor wise man's wisdom saving a city from capture and then his heroic service was forgotten by the citizens. Read Isa 53:3, Col 3:23-24, Mk 10:45, Matt 28:19-20 & 25:21. Discuss how Solomon's example foreshadows Jesus. What opportunities and challenges do we, as believers, face today to serve as salt of the world?