

# ***Life and Death are Meaningless Without Jesus***

## **Ecclesiastes 9:1–12**

Death is the great equalizer; it can strip away the significance of life's endeavors or add meaning to the limited time we have. Live as if you do not get an endless supply of days. Do not get bogged down in today's worries or frustrations, but strive to enjoy the life God gives you! Given Christ's resurrection and triumph over death, believe in Jesus while you can. Only Jesus brings Hope and eternal life.

- 1.) The **Difficulty**: How do you know if God is **for or against** you? (v. 1–3)
  - a. Circumstances alone give no clue as to what God thinks of us. Death catches everyone ("all things come alike to all")
  - b. God's people will suffer in this world; God's favor does not equate to prosperity, health, or a pain-free life. *John the Baptist lost his head!*
  
- 2.) **Death** can make life's activities **meaningless** (1–6, 11–12)
  - a. If this cursed world is all there is, and if there is no God or life beyond the grave, then everything is meaningless; death cancels our actions
  - b. Death's tyranny shows there is a curse on the world (Gen. 3). Death is the climax of life's absurdity ("Everything is futile!" v.1:2; 12:8)
  - c. The living have an advantage because they know they will die; they have a chance to reckon with the reality of death and do something
  
- 3.) How are we to **live** given death's **reality**? (v.7–10)
  - a. Facing death helps you to enjoy life more (v. 7–10; Ecc. 7:2, attend a funeral rather than a party so you can remind yourself of your frailty)
  - b. Be aware that death robs life of value; enjoy what God gives you (v.9)
  - c. Life is a gift; enjoy it, turn from and repent of evil (also, v. 8:12, 12:14)
  - d. Do not waste time on Earth thinking the days are endless (9:9)
  - e. God favors our enjoying the gifts he gives us, so again, enjoy life (v.7)
  - f. Five representative things we should enjoy in life:
    - Eat and drink with pleasure; enjoy fellowship (v.7)
    - Wear festive clothing; the idea is to be celebratory (v.8)
    - Put oil on your head; protect your skin so you can enjoy life (v.8)
    - Enjoy your wife physically, emotionally, and spiritually; love her; be her best friend (v.9, 1 Cor. 7:3–5; Eph. 5:25–33)
    - Enjoy your work and activities; find a job, a hobby, or things to do with your family; and live life with all that you have because death will come for you too (v. 10). *But most importantly...*
  
- 4.) Jesus Christ **delivers us** from death and gives us abundant, **eternal** life
  - a. Ecclesiastes depicts the curse of sin and death. It also points us to the New Testament Hope of the Lord Jesus, where we may truly live life to its fullest (Acts 2:46, 1 Cor. 10:31, Ps. 16:10, Jn. 10:10, Ro. 6:23)