

LIVING NOW IN LIGHT OF YOUR FUTURE DEATH

Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

10/18/15

MAIN IDEA: Looking at the end of your life should drastically affect how you live the rest of your life.

I. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT LIFE AND DEATH (Eccl. 9:1-6)

A. *There is an accountability which both the righteous and the wise have (9:1).*

- We are in the *hands* of God—He is in *control*.
- We don't know what *awaits* us.

B. *There is an appointment which both the righteous and the wicked have (9:2-3; cp. Heb. 9:27).*

"All things come alike to all" (cp. 2:14-15; 8:14).

- No matter their character, all men have a common *destiny* on earth: *death* (9:2-3a).
- Before they die, men reveal the *wickedness* of their heart (9:3b).

C. *There is an advantage which the living have over the dead (9:4-6).*

- In the realm of what they *anticipate* (9:4)
- In the realm of what they *know* (9:5a)
- In the realm of what they *receive* (9:5b)
- In the realm of what they *feel* (9:6a)
- In the realm of what they *experience* (9:6b)

II. OPPORTUNITIES IN LIFE . . . BEFORE DEATH (Eccl. 9:7-10)

A. *Enjoy the life which God has given you (9:7-8; cp. 2:24-26; 3:12-13,22; 5:18-20; 8:15; 11:8-10).*

- Enjoy the material *blessings* (9:7a).
- Enjoy the spiritual *acceptance* (9:7b).
- Enjoy the special *occasions* (9:8).

B. *Enjoy the love of your wife (9:9; cp. Prov. 5:15-20).*

- God has instituted *marriage* (cp. Gen. 2:18-24; Heb. 13:4).
- God has designed marriage for *enjoyment* (cp. Prov. 5:15-20).

C. *Enjoy the labor of your hands (9:10; cp. Col. 3:17, 23-24).*

- The *manner*: do it with all your *might* (cp. Col. 3:23-24).
- The *motivation*: death marks an end of all earthly *opportunities* and *service* (cp. John 9:4; II Cor. 5:10).

❖ *Instead of worrying about the future and death, enjoy the life God has given.*

❖ *Instead of wasting opportunities, put all your energy into serving the Lord.*

❖ *Instead of working only for earthly rewards, invest your effort in eternal things*