

I. Sober Truth - Eccl. 9:1-3

1. Takes the whole of humanity all at once - righteous and wise (**verse 1**)
 - A. All are in God's hands
 - B. Their fate awaits them
 - Rea C. Here not the righteous and unrighteous but ...wise and righteous
-verse 2 has righteous and wicked
 - D. All have a common destiny
- Rea 2. In the hands of God - it's up to Him
-He knows the truth
3. Love and hate are destinations
4. The same end - death (**verse 2**)
 - clean and unclean
 - sacrifices or not
 - good and sinful
 - oaths and not
5. At **verse 3** the writer calls this "evil"
 - death is the same fate of all
 - Rea -this "evil" was begun by Adam and Eve - mankind, not God - death was not God's idea
6. Therefore all must prepare for death
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Judged by our works - like the sheep and goats in Jesus' teaching
 2. By the work of Jesus if a man lives and believes in Him he will never die - John 11
-so the final abode of man is now different by the work of God through Jesus
 3. On the face of it - the idea that all men die seems unfair and illogical

II. Seek Life - Eccl. 9:4-6

1. If you are alive you are better than the dead (**verse 4**)
 - a live dog is better than a dead lion
 - Rea -well, at least he is a live...
- Rea 2. Dogs were seen as scavengers - not the pets they are today
3. At least the living know they will die (**verse 5**)
 - the dead know nothing
 - Rea -this "foreknowledge" is a gift that God gives mankind - dogs (animals) don't think like that
 - the dead have no further reward - even their name is forgotten
 - when he spoke of the same fate happening to all... he meant that all will die... in the Old Testament writers knew very little of the afterlife, as we know now.
 - Rea -Jesus brought us most of what we know about the afterlife - in our day we understand about heaven... but we also understand about hell, and its torments. Jesus taught us about hell.
4. Even their opportunity to do good ends when people die (**verse 6**)
 - opportunity to do good (like Solomon spoke of) ends when death comes
 - Rea -I believe that we will be given opportunity to serve God in heaven

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Death looms before us all - it is one of those things we don't "talk about" - but it is very real - by taking the time to consider death (once in a while) we will be able to live better "lives"
2. Death can become a doorway into a better "life"
3. Jesus forever changed death - through His resurrection
4. As birth starts this life so death starts another life

III. Enjoy - Eccl. 9:7-10

1. Enjoy life (**verse 7**)

-Jesus came "eating and drinking" - He enjoyed life

-God created all things richly for us to enjoy

Rea -"already approved" what you do - these things that He made for us to enjoy.
Obviously this is not a blanket approval on a sinful life.

2. Be clothed in white - anoint your head with oil (**verse 8**)

-white clothes reflected the sun

Rea -white versus black - as in morning

3. Enjoy life with your wife (**verse 9**)

-all your "meaningless" life

-this life will end... it has no apparent purpose

Rea -this does not mean there is no significance in life, it means that this type life will be over soon - Jesus taught us that we are to lay up treasures in heaven. So what we do NOW will stretch on into heaven.

4. This is your labor under the sun - your "lot"

5. Do whatever your hand finds to do because where you are going it will all be different (**verse 10**)

A. Give it all you've got

B. These opportunities will not be there in heaven

Rea C. We add an "after all" - this is all there is - that is not what Solomon said - he is saying that we cannot do these things in heaven. There is a way in which we can honor God now in a way that may be passing.

Rea 6. The New Testament perspective can broaden the view we get here - this is not all there is. Having said that we are given opportunities here that will not always be there.

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Do you think Solomon was pessimistic? Realistic? Sour?

2. Life can be very empty without the future Jesus secured for us

-but... just because you cannot see beyond death, does not mean that life does not exist beyond death

3. Jesus taught us about hell...

BUT Jesus also taught us about heaven - both are realities - as real as the chair you sit in

4. Disappointment with life leads us to say... "there has to be more" - and there is!