

Sermon Reflections

The Matter of Life and Death (Ecclesiastes 9:1-12)

Summary: Take up the joys in life as God's gift before it is too late.

How to Live in View of Death:

1. Realize that Death Awaits You (vv. 1-3a)

- If you knew you only had weeks to live, how would this fact change your life? Your purpose? Your priorities?
- A healthy dose of the thoughts of death leads to a more faithful and a more fruitful life. Why do you think this is true?
- How can the truths of Romans 5:8 encourage you during the times that you look at your current circumstances and think "Life is not fair!"?

2. Repent Before It's Too Late (vv. 3b-6)

- According to the text, what is the meaning behind Solomon's statement in 9:4 that "...a living dog is better than a dead lion"?
- What is the biblical definition of the word "Repentance"? How is it different from the word "Penance"? When you realize that you have sinned, are you typically reluctant to repent of that sin? Why or why not?

3. Seize the Joy in Life Before It's Gone (vv. 7-10)

- Life is superior to death but there is no predicting whether your life in this world will be easy or hard. Therefore, you are advised to enjoy life when circumstances are conducive for it. When you do so, you will acknowledge that it is due to God's "approval" or "favor" (see verses 7, 2:24-26, 3:13, and 5:19-20 of Ecclesiastes). Do you find it difficult to have joy in your life? Why or why not? When you are in a joyful season of your life do you tend to thank God for it or are you more prone to assume that it is something you deserve?

4. See that Death Comes Unexpectedly (vv. 11-12)

- While not denying God's sovereign ordering of human affairs (see 3:1-15 and 7:14), the Preacher admits that from a finite human perspective, many things that occur in the world have the appearance of being the result of pure chance. What are other Scripture texts that strongly support the theology of the sovereignty of God?
- A person never knows when death will come. How does this truth motivate you in the area of evangelism? Have you ever regretted not proclaiming Christ to someone and now it is too late?