

#11 The Joy of the Lord

Ecclesiastes: 9:1-12 (ESV)

Does God Love Me?

Ecclesiastes 9:1-6 But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. ² It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. ³ This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. ⁴ But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵ For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

1. **DEATH is the great EQUALIZER**
2. **God's WAYS are not OUR ways**
3. **When evil befalls Good people we know three things**
 - a. **God is SOVEREIGN**
 - b. **God is IN CONTROL**
 - c. **God sets THE TIMES**

Live in Joy

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10 Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. ⁸ Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. ⁹ Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

1. **Eat and Drink with A MERRY HEART**
2. **Enjoy life with a WIFE WHOM YOU LOVE**
3. **Whatever you do, do it WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT**

Live in Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. ¹² For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

1. **Life is UNPREDICTABLE**
2. **Death is UNEXPECTED**
3. **Wisdom is LIVING FOR JESUS**

The Joy we find in Jesus is everlasting!