

Enjoy life as God's gift as long as you live

Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:9

- I. Admit that no one fully knows God's sovereign plan (Ecclesiastes 8:16-17).
 - A. We try to know God's purposes and plans (16).
 - B. We don't know God's purposes and plans (17).

- II. Embrace the reality of God's control over life and death (Ecclesiastes 9:1-3).
 - A. Godly people trust God's sovereignty when some are blessed while others suffer (1).
 - B. The godly and ungodly both die (2a).
 - C. Sin and foolishness mark most who die (3).

- III. Live with confident expectation because you are alive today (Ecclesiastes 9:4-6).
 - A. There is hope for the future if you are alive (4a).
 - B. Alive and poor is better than rich and dead (4b).
 - C. We will be forgotten, so we must make today matter (5-6).

- IV. Cherish God's blessings with joy since life is brief (Ecclesiastes 9:7-9).
 - A. Enjoy God's provisions which express His gracious gift of life (7).
 - B. Enjoy celebrations and special events (8).
 - C. Enjoy marriage to your spouse (9).
 - D. [Work hard and do it well (10) – Intro to following passages]