

SERMON NOTES

Date: September 1, 2019

Title: Death and Life Under the Sun

Text: Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:12

Big Idea: The wise enjoy life under the sun as much as they can before it's gone.

APPLICATION GUIDE

REVIEW THE TEXT

Read Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:12. What is this passage about?

Why do you think Solomon returns again and again to the ideas that death is certain (cf. 1:4; 2:14-16; 3:2; 6:12) and life should be enjoyed (cf. 2:24-25; 3:12-13, 22; 5:18; 8:15; 11:9-10)?

APPLY THE TRUTH

This section of Ecclesiastes stresses the limitations of human knowledge (8:16-17; 9:1, 12). To what degree are you comfortable with *not knowing* certain things? Why can you trust God with what you don't know (cf. Deuteronomy 42:4; Psalm 139; Isaiah 40)?

You can know for certain that is that God is sovereign (9:1) and that death comes to all (9:2-6). Does this give you grounds to be pessimistic or optimistic? What hope do you have as you live beneath the shadow of death?

How can does the gospel free you to enjoy the life you have for as long as you have it (John 10:10; 1 Timothy 6:17)? What limitations does the gospel put on this (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16)?

Think through the three *W*'s presented in the message and write out specific applications for how you can enjoy each one in the Lord.

- Enjoy your wine (9:7)
- Enjoy your wife or husband (9:8-9)
- Enjoy your work (9:10)

COMMIT THIS WEEK

Take some time this week to do something you enjoy, even if it's for a brief time. Thank God for providing the simple pleasures of life and pray for growing contentment with his many blessings amidst the many trials and difficulties you face.