



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ecclesiastes Sermon Series
Supports Session: Facing Death?
Sermon Title: "In the End"
Passage: Ecclesiastes 9:1-3

Connection to Ecclesiastes 9

Solomon considered the fate of all people, regardless of whether they are righteous or wicked. The finality of life reveals the necessity of enjoying the life God gives us. Followers of Christ recognize their best life comes from aligning themselves with the preserving wisdom of God.

Introduction/Opening

Most of us know someone who reminds us of the pessimistic character named Eeyore in *Winnie the Pooh*. We may even value their thoughts on ideas we have, knowing that they will help us see the problems we will need to address.

In parts of Ecclesiastes, Solomon appears quite pessimistic as well, but he is bold and wise in his assessment regarding the finality of all people. By acknowledging everyone has the same earthly fate, Solomon acknowledged God is in complete control. Facing potential difficult and sobering truths helps us value the significance in God's kingdom.

Outline

- I. Everything is in God's hands (v. 1).
Trusting God as sovereign is easy to profess, but difficult to implement in terms of our thinking and behavior. Submitting our wills, desires, and lives completely to Jesus is one of the greatest areas of sanctification for believers. Believers prepare for the future but know we do not control the future. We truly understand Him as King, Lord, and Master when we fully submit to the truth that all aspects of life "are in God's hands" (v. 1).
- II. Know what truly matters (v. 2).
All people will meet the same earthly fate. This truth should be understood positively and not pessimistically. All believers should understand that God does not give preferential treatment in this regard to an earthly death.

Since all individuals meet the same fate on earth (v. 2), it is what is done before death that truly matters in eternity. We can spend our lives pursuing things and possessions in order to lift ourselves, or we can invest in godly pursuits that will endure for eternity.

It is impossible to manipulate God or earn one's way out of death. We can take care of ourselves physically and live according to God's laws to provide for a better, healthier life on earth, but neither believers nor non-believers can cheat earthly death (v. 2). This is a sobering truth for us to understand so we can make our lives focus on the kingdom of Christ.

III. Honesty is key (v. 3).

Believers should be honest about who they are in relation to Christ. Those who follow Christ should realize how imperative it is to rely on the grace and mercy of Jesus knowing that believers are not owed any more time on earth than unbelievers.

We should not deceive ourselves about the nature of our hearts apart from the atoning work of Christ. Our hearts are full of evil. This truth may sound harsh or even depressing, but this truth humbles us so we remain repentant, and it enables us to progress further in our journey with Christ.

Conclusion

We all tend to act Eeyore-ish at times when faced with sobering truths, and we feel tempted to view circumstances more pessimistically. However, seeing things as they truly are can lead us to discover great truths about our relationship with the Lord. Regardless of how Solomon may sound to us at times, he was writing great wisdom and truth about the finality of every human life on earth.

How can we adjust our lives knowing everyone meets the same earthly fate? If you were to meet that end sooner rather than later, for whom and for what did you live your life? Knowing it is impossible to manipulate God because He is in total control, would you be honest with yourself about how you're living life and what truly matters? Commit your life to Christ.

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