

Life *Before* Death
Ecclesiastes 9:1-10
Pastor Nathan Hogan

Growth Group Questions

1. When was the first time in your life you were confronted with the reality of death (at least that you can remember)? What did you learn?
2. Verses 1-3 of our text remind us that we can't always use our circumstances to prove God's favor (or disfavor). Why is this? Why are we so tempted to do this?
3. In verses 4-6 the author explains why it is to our advantage to be alive? What reasons does he give? What do you think about his reasons?
4. Why might it be a bit surprising to hear the author encourage us to enjoy the simple pleasures of life amidst all his talk about death?

5. What are some of the simple pleasures of life the author commands us to enjoy in verses 7-10? Which of these items are difficult for you to enjoy? Why? How can you grow in gratefully enjoying these things?

6. How does the Christian's hope of life *after* death add even more encouragement to the truths contained in the Ecclesiastes text?

Next Week: Ecclesiastes 9:11-10:7

John 4:31-34

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.