

## "Enjoyment in the Shadow of Death"

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

September 3, 2023

### I. Another major theme in Ecclesiastes: Enjoyment of this Life

*Ecclesiastes 2:24–25* - <sup>24</sup> There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God. <sup>25</sup> For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him?

*Ecclesiastes 3:12–13* - <sup>12</sup> I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; <sup>13</sup> also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil — this is God's gift to man.

*Ecclesiastes 5:18* - Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.

*Ecclesiastes 7:14* - In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

*Ecclesiastes 8:15* - And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

- A. This theme is somewhat surprising (for us) to find in Ecclesiastes.
- B. Few Bible books, if any, speak more of enjoyment than Ecclesiastes.

### II. The Culmination of this Theme of Enjoyment: Ecc. 9:7-10

- A. Solomon brings up enjoyment of life right after a discussion of the looming terror of death. →
- B. In this passage, enjoyment is not just recommended (see above) but *commanded*.
- C. We are command to enjoy three aspects of life:
  - 1. Our daily pleasures. (vs. 7-8)
    - a. Every day should include a joyful feast of some sort.
    - b. We're also to dress like we're celebrating.

2. Our spouses, if we're married. (v. 9)
  3. Every daily task required of us. (v. 10)
- D. This is not "eat, drink, and be merry because tomorrow we die!"
1. Ecclesiastes is Solomon's sermon to the people of God (see Ecc. 1:1).
  2. Solomon is calling us to rejoice in earthly things with a heavenly perspective.
    - a. Each day can be a feast day because God already *accepts* us! (How much more now in Christ?!)
    - b. Our spouses are *treasures* given to us by the Lord! (And we know now that marriage also represents Christ and the church!).
    - c. Each daily task is an *opportunity* given to us by God! (And now Christ personally receives our labors as done for Him!)

***Colossians 3:23–24*** - <sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,* <sup>24</sup> *knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*