

Everybody Dies

(Enjoying Life in the Shadow of Death)

Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

I. **THE SHADOW OF DEATH** (2-3a, 5-6, 10b)

A. **The Common Destiny** (2-3)—the people of this world for death/the grave

1. **Certain and Unavoidable** (Ezek 18:4; Rom 6:23; 1 Cor 15:21)
2. **The Wicked and the Righteous** (Ecc 7:20; 8:8,10; Rom 3:10, 23)
3. **An Evil Thing**—seems unfair, something is not right

B. **The Coming End** (1 Cor 7:29, 31; 1 Jn 2:17)—the things of this world (*under the sun*)

1. **Of Awareness** (5a, 6a)—thought and feeling
2. **Of Memory** (5c) the memory of you; you will be forgotten
3. **Of Reward** (5b; Mat 6:2, 5, 16)—if you have labored *only for the things of this life*, all that is over and done with.
4. **Of Action** (10b)
 - a. **Your participation in the business and affairs of this life**—ability to plan and do things
 - b. **Your ability to make changes**—repent, change course, make amends, do good

II. **THE HAND OF GOD** (1)—He's holding the reins.

A. **God's Sovereign Will** (Pro 20:24; Is 45:7)—authority; His purpose, choice, plan, and the power to make it happen

1. **God is in control.** (Implication: *We are not*).
2. **We can't know what is coming** (Implication: *God does*).

B. God's Good Providence (Ps 57:2; 138:8)—management; carrying out His purpose and plan for our lives

1. **Actively Directing** all things that come to us

2. **Personally Involved** (Ps 1:6; Rom 8:28)—has a unique and intimate relationship with the righteous

III. THE HEARTS OF MEN (3b; 6:10; 7:29)—the heart of the problem is the human heart

A. **Evil** (4:1-8)—immoral, unjust

B. **Madness**—foolishness; naturally don't know what's good for us

IV. THE LIFE BEFORE DEATH (4-10)—it is *not meaningless*

A. **Time to Change** (2 Cor 6:2; Heb 9:27)

B. **Things to Enjoy**(7-9)—earthly blessings

1. **Feasting** (7)

2. **Dressing Up** (8)

3. **Marriage** (9; Gen 2:18; Mat 22:30)

D. **Work to Be Done** (10; Jn 4:34; 9:4; 1 Cor 15:58; Col 1:29; 3:23-24; Rev 14:13)

1. **We can make a difference here and now.**

2. **We will be rewarded by Jesus.**

3. **Our good works will follow us.**

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