



## ***Ecclesiastes Study - Chapter 9:***

1. I took all of this to heart and really mulled it over. It seems self-evident: God holds all in His hand. What the righteous and the wise do is never forgotten by Him. The question remains what God will think of what we accomplish. Will He love it or hate it?
2. Consider all that could happen, good or bad. It makes no difference if you're righteous or wicked; good and all cleaned up, or a filthy mess; a faithful tither or a skinflint: swearing righteous vengeance or fearing it.
3. Evil seems to fall on everyone. Moreover, evil seems to pour out of us, too. All bluster and bombast we bully our way through life. All that blathering and boasting will die along with us.
4. The humble who survive when the proud fall at least have tomorrow. A living dog has hope. A dead lion has nothing.
5. The living know they'll die. The dead know nothing and can't remind us how great they were. They become nothing when the memory of them fades away.
6. Alive you can be loved, hated, or envied for all you've done. Once gone you have no part in the affairs of this life. The eons will wash it all away.
7. Enough of this moaning. GO! Eat! Drink! Throw a party! Toast the good life you have and toast God Himself, for He will never forget your good work. He approves of it and toasts you back.
8. If you've done right, in **every** season wear the garments of rejoicing, not mourning. Walk confident with God's anointing on your forehead.
9. As long as you have one, live joyfully with your spouse – through the productive days; through the seasons of frustration. As long as you can **do**, it's your birthright to celebrate what you accomplish with those you love; to savor the rewards of hard work.
10. Whatever good work you're inclined to do, do it with all your heart. Remember: In the grave, you won't be thinking, discerning, dreaming, creating, or building anything.

11. I came full circle and arrived at this conclusion: The race isn't always won by the fastest; the battle isn't always won by the strongest; food isn't always grown by the most patient; wealth isn't always created by the most wise; honor doesn't always go to the most skillful. The unexpected is happening all the time and **to** everyone.

12. How long will it be? No one really knows how long they have. Fish caught up in the net don't see the end coming, either. It could be as swift as the bird snatched by a snare. In evil times, men can be snared just as suddenly.

13. A little bit of wisdom I discovered in plain sight – I was astonished by the gravity of it:

14. I know of a small city that survived a great siege by a powerful king long ago. A king and his army attacked the town. When they didn't relent, he built a great ramp to force his way in.

15. Somehow, a poor wise man in the village outwitted the king and his entire army, helping every last person to escape the slaughter. Everyone knew the story of this man yet no one could remember **his name**.

16. On hearing this I said "Of course! Wit and Wisdom will prevail over brute strength. Yet, the wise one – especially if he's humble or poor – will be ignored by history."

17. Still, I have hope that wise words, quietly spoken, will be heeded more than the bellowing roars of the stupid and powerful.

18. We see that sound judgment and cleverness are far more useful than wildly swinging the axe. Still, the determined evildoer with a weapon in hand can sure do a lot of damage.

## ***Explain the Context***

From your own reading provide a short answer to the following:

<b>What</b> is the theme of this chapter?	<b>What</b> is the author communicating?
<b>What</b> did the author miss?	<b>What</b> is God trying to say?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) What do we do with the time we've been given?
- 2) What does the phrase "A living dog has hope. A dead lion has nothing" mean to you?
- 3) What does it mean to "walk confident with God's anointing on your forehead" .?
- 4) How can walking in that confidence change the way you approach every Day?
- 5) In our current political and economic climate, how can we insure we are using sound judgement in daily decisions?
- 6) Is it a comfort to know that we all have an end? Can you enjoy life even knowing this?

## ***Apply the Scripture***

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

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How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

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## **For further study:**

Consider these scriptures for further study. Add any others you find.

- 1 Samuel 2:9
- Proverbs 16:3
- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- Proverbs 29:6

## **Lessons the *author* should have learned:**

- ~Live with gratitude – don't be short sighted!
- ~ I can make the most of the time I have!