

ECCLESIASTES: FORMING A SUSTAINING PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

(Various Passages)

Central Idea: *Seeing life as it really is, not as we wish it to be, allows us to enjoy our lives as much as possible.*

I. Seeing life as it really is.

A. Ecclesiastes 1:4-11. The passage of time.

B. Ecclesiastes 6:12 & 7:2. Life is short.

C. Ecclesiastes 9:11-12. Lack of control.

D. Ecclesiastes 3:10-11; 8:17; 11:5. Life is mysterious.

II. Ecclesiastes 8:15; 9:7-10. Forming a philosophy of life.

A. The weight of the world is not on your shoulders. Live in the present. Stop trying to control what you can't control. Accept the mystery.

Questions for Group or Personal Study

1. The Teacher's goal throughout Ecclesiastes is to see life as it really is, not just as we wish it to be. How does seeing life as it really is protect us from forming false expectations of life that will be inevitably disappointed?
2. What were the Teacher's 4 observations about the nature of life under the sun?
3. Which of these observations stands out most to you, and why?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 8:15; 9:7-10. Despite the difficulties we'll face in life, how does the Teacher instruct us to enjoy our lives as much as possible?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 8:15; 9:7-10 again. In light of these verses, why is it so important to live in the present moment?
6. Assess your own life. Are you living in the manner prescribed in 8:15; 9:7-10. Why or why not?

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This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying today's message. "Ecclesiastes: Forming a Sustaining Philosophy of Life" is the third message in a series on the book of Ecclesiastes. This message can be watched, listened to or downloaded at cbcomaha.org. You may also stream and download CBC podcasts from iTunes or Google Play.