

Meaning in Life and the Problem of Death

Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

1. Wisdom is helpful, until you die. (vv. 12-16)
 - a. 1:13
 - b. 1:11
 - c. Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

2. Work is good, until you die. (vv. 17-23)
 - a. I have to leave behind what I have gained. (v. 18)
 - b. I might leave what I gained to a fool. (vv. 18-19)
 - i. 1 Kings 12
 - c. I have to leave what I have worked for to someone who didn't do the work. (v. 21)

3. Enjoy life before you die. (vv. 24-26)
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."
 - b. Luke 12:18-21 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" ' 20"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' 21"'"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

BEYOND THE SUN:

- There is a wisdom that remains even in death.
 - 2 Timothy 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

- There is a way for our work to remain even in death.
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-7 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

- Jesus came to solve the problem of death.
 - 2 Timothy 1:9-10
 - Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

- We can now live in light of eternity.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:9-10
 - Colossians 1:9-10 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God
 - Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
 - Romans 14:17-18 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.