

“No Regrets”
Ecclesiastes 8:16 - 9:10
New Hope Community Church
March 11th, 2018

A. Mankind Is Dwarfed By the Work of God (8:16,17)

1. The scope of God’s work stretches beyond man’s **discovery**
2. The mystery of God’s work is designed to produce **worship**
 - ‘I know’ - says the wise and **prideful** man (eg of 7:16)
 - ‘I cannot know’ - says the wise and **reverent** man (eg 7:18)

B. All of Mankind Is Subject To the Hand of God (9:1-3)

1. The earthly outcome of the deeds of God’s people is **uncertain**
2. The same is true for those who are **not** God’s people
3. Ultimately, all of mankind faces the same event — **death**
 - Death is the painful **consequence** for the good and evil
 - Sin is the **moral** condition that brought about death
4. This leads to two observations —
 - If God is truly just, then there must be more than the consequences we see on **earth** alone
 - * God’s promises are acc. to His nature — eternal!
 - Knowing this, death is to be a **motivator** for how we live live while on the earth (9:4-6)

C. Accepting God’s Rule, He Desires for Us To Enjoy Life (7-10)

1. In spite of the curse of death, God gives many **blessings**
 - Provisions for our **hunger** and thirst
 - Provisions for our difficult **toil**
 - Provisions for our **loneliness**
2. Realizing the opportunity of life, live with full **purpose**
 - Beware of the danger of living in the shadow of the **past**
 - Beware of the danger of squandering the **time** we have

Reflection

- (1) The mysteries of the magnificent creation should lead us to take our place at the **feet** of the Creator
- (2) The approach of death should motivate us to live **responsibly**
- (3) By trusting in the infinite wisdom and justice of the Sovereign God, we can enjoy the many **pleasures** He provides us in life in spite of the momentary sorrows we must endure on earth
- (4) Eternity will **resolve** the perceived injustices of the present

Paul’s Testimony in 2 Timothy 4:7,8

Life Group Meeting
Ecclesiastes 8:16 - 9:10

QUESTIONS

1. Read Ecclesiastes 8:16,17
2. As suggested from these verses, the mystery of God’s work in creation is designed to produce worship. If this has been true in your life, share one or two of your worship experiences that came from meditating on the creation.
3. Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-10
4. Solomon reflects over the fact that both the righteous and the evil have the same fate — death. Do you think this fact in and of itself is an argument for the belief that there must be something beyond the grave where there is a day of reckoning? Why, or why not?
5. Do you agree with the statement, “death is to be a motivator for how we live while on the earth” ? Would you say it is for you? (consider vs 4-6).
6. How do you think vs 7-9 contribute to Solomon’s discussion?
7. As you think about v 10, how can things from our past hinder us from “doing things with all our might”? What is the key to not letting this happen?
8. Read #3 and #4 in the Reflection section of the notes. How can an eternal focus truly free us up to live our temporal lives on earth to the fullest?
9. Read 2 Timothy 4:7,8. Does the Apostle Paul’s farewell address inspire and shape your thinking about life? Please share how.
10. Did God speak to you through this passage? Pray for one another about these matters.