

Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Ecclesiastes*

BIBLE TEXT | ECCLESIASTES 9:1-6

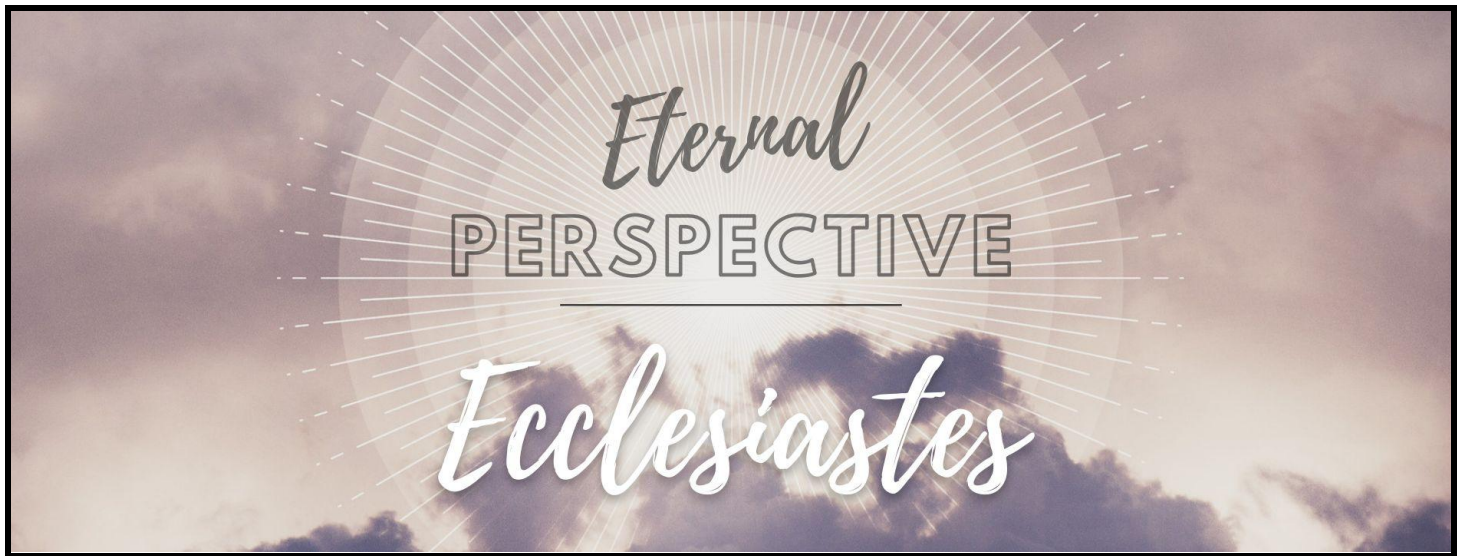
1 But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. **2** It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. **3** This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of

evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. **4** But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. **5** For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. **6** Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

DEVOTIONAL FOR ECCLESIASTES 9:1-6

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Here is the truth of the matter, we each get one life to live, and God generously gives each of us the choice how we want to spend it. But in the end, we will all give an account for how we stewarded the time we had, and only the things we invested into eternity will remain. Peter cautioned Believers about this concept in 2 Peter 3:11 when he wrote, "since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in holiness and godliness?" Jesus Himself charged us to not lay up treasures on earth, but rather, "lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven" (Matthew 6:19-20), even warning us about not letting our hearts be weighed down with cares of this life (Luke 21:34-36). John also echoes this idea in 1 John 2:15-17 when he says "don't love the world or the things in the world."



There are many selfish pleasures this life can afford us; things we can seek false security from and choose to chase after for a temporary sense of gratification as civilians. Or, we can resolve to live as soldiers of a different Kingdom, not entangling ourselves in the pursuits of this world (2 Timothy 2:4). For in the end, nothing will truly satisfy or fulfill like an abiding and thriving relationship with Jesus Christ! In our culture, it's easy to get caught up chasing the "American Dream" but may we not look to the uncertainty of riches and instead, be rich in good works, storing up for ourselves a good foundation for eternity. May we strive to "take hold of that which is truly life" as Paul charged Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

As Solomon states often in his final appeal at the end of his days, a life lived only for oneself is, "Vanity of vanities"! May we earnestly hold to the hope that is in Christ, firm to the end, unreservedly giving of ourselves for the only thing that truly satisfies, Jesus Christ (Hebrews 6:11-12)!

"Dear God, stamp eternity on our eyeballs!" -Jonathan Edwards

Questions:

1. Do you find yourself seeking satisfaction in worldly things (i.e. relationships, accolades, possessions) over your relationship with Jesus?
2. Have you ever thought about what it might be like to stand before the Lord on that Day?
3. In light of the previous question, would you change any of your current pursuits to better prepare you to stand before Him with confidence?