

A common destiny for all: Ecclesiastes ch.9

Thanks to Kate for today's TFTD.

Life is a temporary assignment and a temporary residence for us on earth since our identity is in eternity and our homeland is heaven. Here, the writer continues to share guidance gleaned from observations on life made during his search for meaning. He noted that all things come alike to all, it matters not that you are righteous or wicked. One thing that certainly happens to all is death, after which one is soon forgotten and has no share in this life (things done "under the sun"). Should one therefore despair? No, the writer again encourages us to live joyfully, especially with the wife/husband of our youth, and to work diligently in the time we have in this life. Once you die, you won't be able to continue your efforts in the grave. This is our portion in life, and God has already accepted our works (v 1-10). The writer also observed that time and chance happens to all, and that evil times come suddenly. The uncertainty of life can be softened with the aid of wisdom, which the writer praises as better than strength and the weapons of war. Thus the words of the wise should be heard, even when spoken softly, or coming from a poor man (v 11-18).

It is clear to say compared to eternity, life is indeed short and fragile and it is wise for us to live a productive life and to do good to everyone while we have time here on earth. Repeatedly, the bible compares life on earth to temporarily living in a foreign country. This is not our permanent home or final destination. We are just passing through, just visiting earth. The bible uses terms such as we are alien, pilgrims, foreigners, strangers, visitors and travellers staying briefly here on earth. As David said, "I am but a foreigner here on earth".....and Peter explained," If you call God your Father, live your time as temporarily residents on earth," Psalm 11:19; 1 Peter 1:17

It is important to remember, that it is God's desire that his children to think differently about life from the way non-believers do. "All they think about is this life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives." Philipians 3:19-20

Believers understand that there is far more to life than just the few years we live on this planet. Our identity is in eternity and our homeland is

heaven. The good news about this truth is that, it will help us stop worrying about what we have here on earth. God warns us of the danger of living this life as if it were all in the here and now, and putting all our values and priorities in the world around us. It is a temptation that God wants us to avoid. The bible also says, “You are cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way.” James 4:4

Therefore as followers of Christ Jesus, it is important to remember, that the writer does not condemn good living but life should be enjoyed. And as ambassadors of Christ Jesus we must never fall in love with this foreign land since we have a commitment to our homeland which is God’s Kingdom. Therefore we need to live a life as though we are preparing for something even better. **“The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can’t see now will last forever.”** 2 Corinthians 4:18b

That’s Life – poem (Anonymous)

Life is precious: guard it,
Life is a challenge: meet it
Life is a misery: overcome it
Life is sweet: taste it
Life is cruel: bear it
Life is love: kiss it
Life is God: worship it
Life is a struggle: face it
Life is pleasure: enjoy it
Life is bitter: sweeten it
Life is short: utilise it
Life is death: accept it
Life is life: live it.

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