

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10  
Joy, the gift of God and the grace of life  
Removing Discouragements to God's Plan—8:16-12:14

- 1) Three commands concerning joy—9:7
  - a) What?—9:7a
    - i) Be active <sup>7</sup> *Go*,
      - (1) Don't sit around moping, worrying, etc.
    - ii) Celebrate with contentment
      - (1) *eat your bread with pleasure*,—
      - (2) *and drink your wine with a cheerful heart*,—
  - b) Why?—9:7b
    - i) *because God has already approved your works*.
    - ii) Those who have been justified by God need not worry about their relationship with God. He is not indifferent or antagonistic toward them. He has already approved them.
- 2) A two-fold blessing—9:8
  - a) May you have perpetual **celebration**—<sup>8</sup> *Let your clothes be white all the time*,
  - b) May you have perpetual **comfort**—*and never let oil be lacking on your head*.
- 3) Two additional commands concerning joy—9:9-10
  - a) In your marriage—9:9 <sup>9</sup> *Enjoy* (literally “see”) *life with the wife whom you love all the days of your illusory life that He has given to you under the sun, all your illusory days*;
    - i) Why? *because this is your allotted portion in life and in your toil in which you toil under the sun*.
    - ii) To refuse to enjoy life is to dishonor the sovereign God Who allotted these things to us during the time we have on this earth.
  - b) In your work—9:10 <sup>10</sup> *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your capability*, (cf. Colossians 3:23)
    - i) Why? *because there is no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol to which you are going*.
    - ii) To refuse to work with all our capability is to dishonor the sovereign God Who allotted these things to us during the time we have on this earth.

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- “Be joyful, then, and receive God's gifts and His ability to enjoy them. Why should anyone who truly fears God have the joy of life stolen out from under them because of the unresolved perplexities still remaining in the partially disclosed plan of God?” (Kaiser, 158)
  - “Therefore, while the resources of life are still at hand—ability to *do* work, faculties to *devise*, or brainstorm, new ideas, and ability to use the almost daily accumulation of knowledge and *wisely* apply it to the situations of life (9:10)—put your whole self and strength into each task.” (Kaiser, 162)