

Message #10**Ecclesiastes 3:12-15**

Finding an enjoyable and meaningful life is really contingent upon knowing where to look.

We may carefully observe that **verse 12** and **14** begin with the words “I know.” The Hebrew word means to know something in the sense of having acquired knowledge. This type of knowledge is based on having seen, observed and experienced (Gesenius, p. 333).

This text is a breath of fresh air, for this lets us know that meaning and fulfillment are possible.

THE KEY TO AN ENJOYABLE LIFE IS KNOWING THAT IT IS ALL FOUND IN ONE’S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

OBSERVATION #1 – What Solomon knew about life. **3:12-13**

Conclusion #1 - There is nothing better than for a person to rejoice. **3:12a**

Therefore, being excited and joyful about life is not only a wonderful discovery, it is a Biblical testimony.

The word “better” is a Hebrew word that means to be good in the sense of having a good and pleasant smell (Gesenius, p. 319). There is nothing that looks better or smells better than one who enjoys life. People are drawn to one who enjoys life.

Conclusion #2 - There is nothing better than for a person to do good. **3:12b**

The word “good” is the same word translated “better.” The words refer to doing things that have a good and pleasant smell to them. The implications of this verse are profound.

First of all, the potential to do good is impossible without God. Paul said, “There is none who does good, there is not even one” (Rom. 3:12). So without Jesus Christ in one’s life, one does not have the potential of doing things that God will classify as good.

There is nothing better than for a person to experience many beautiful things in this life, but this will not and cannot happen in the big picture of one’s lifetime without a proper relationship with God!

Here is the applicable New Testament point to all of this—there is nothing better than for a man or woman to invest one’s life in doing good things. If one can look back on one’s lifetime and say I had a good life, that is, I had a life God would classify as good, there is nothing better than that. But this life will not happen apart from Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ is not in the life and if a relationship with Jesus Christ is not being cultivated, the “good” life is an impossibility.

Conclusion #3 - Everyone who can enjoy life has received a gift from God. **3:13**

We get a good glimpse as to what it really takes to be able to enjoy life. One needs enough food and drink and one needs to see that his work prospers and means something.

Now the determining factor of who gets to enjoy life like this is God. Michael Eaton said it well in his commentary when he said—The decisive factor in all of this is the “sovereignty of God” (p. 82).

If you are one who has plenty to eat and drink and you are one who enjoys his work and the fruit of it, you are one who has received a gift from God. As one writer said—instead of complaining about what we don’t have, we should enjoy what we do have.

Now typically speaking, the way to having God grant the enjoyable life is to “fear Him” and “keep His commandments.”

Enjoying life is a gift given by the sovereignty of God, and enduring life is also a lack of gift given by the sovereignty of God.

OBSERVATION #2 – What Solomon knew about God. **3:14-15**

Fact #1 - God’s work is permanent. **3:14a**

Solomon knew everything God does is something that stands forever. If we link into something God is doing, it will stand. If your life, if your business, if your ministry is of God, it will have a permanence to it.

Everything man does and is, in and of himself, is transitory. Everything God does and is, is eternal. When transitory man happens to link into the eternal plan of God, there is a permanence to it.

Fact #2 - God’s work is perfect. **3:14b**

There is nothing one will ever need to add or to subtract from the perfect work of God. In God’s work, nothing is missing or lacking. It is true of God, it is true of His work and it is true of His Word (Deut. 4:2). Nothing ever needs to be added to the work of God or to the Word of God.

Fact #3 - God’s work is purposeful. **3:15**

There is a purpose for everything God sovereignly allows in life and that is to bring a person to the place where he will fear Him.

God keeps doing and demonstrating the same kinds of things He has done before in order to bring a man to the point where that man will fear God.

In a practical sense, God will keep surfacing the same kinds of things over and over again until we finally get to the place where we fear God and desire to do His will. God monitors all movement and He will bring back for judgment what has already passed by.

A person may think he/she has really gotten away with something and fooled everyone, but he/she hasn't. God will search it out. There will be an accountability for that which appeared to pass by. There will be judgment!

Now why did Solomon bring this up? Because fearing God and dealing with things before God is key to a meaningful and enjoyable life. Letting things pass by will never make any person happy. Facing things in light of the eternal Word and plan of God is the key to happiness in this life and the next.