

LIVING LIFE BACKWARD

PART 7 OF 10: MAGNIFYING THE MUNDANE

Ecclesiastes 9 ♦ Pastor Dean Lancaster ♦ March 23, 2025

Misunderstanding the meaning of life can have depressing consequences because we prioritize and value the wrong pursuits. The best thing we can do is trust God, live by faith, and enjoy whatever blessings God gives us.

Meaning in Death

Ecclesiastes 9:1–6 *The same destiny ultimately awaits everyone, whether righteous or wicked, good or bad, ceremonially clean or unclean, religious or irreligious. Good people receive the same treatment as sinners, and people who make promises to God are treated like people who don't.*

Our time here contains both the certainty of death and the uncertainty of life.

Christ's victory over death, offers us hope beyond the grave .

We are to recognize life's brevity by focusing on God's purposes .

God encourages us to live with awareness and purpose .

Ecclesiastes 9:1 *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.*

Meaning in the Chaos

Ecclesiastes 9:11–12 *I have observed something else under the sun. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time. People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a trap, people are caught by sudden tragedy.*

Life's results often seem random .

God knows the big picture that we do not know; he is in control of the chaos .

God's control gives hope that transcends our circumstances .

Christ overturns our worldly expectations .

Meaning in the Mundane

Ecclesiastes 9:7–10 *So go ahead. Eat your food with joy, and drink your wine with a happy heart, for God approves of this! Wear fine clothes, with a splash of cologne! Live happily with the woman you love through all the meaningless days of life that God has given you under the sun. The wife God gives you is your reward for all your earthly toil. Whatever you do, do well. For when you go to the grave, there will be no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom.*

Celebrate the gifts of daily life as blessings to be enjoyed .

Enjoyment is not frivolous but a wise response to God's provision .

We can enjoy simple pleasures because God's promise of eternal life is true.

God lives and works in the mundane .

John 2:11 *This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*

Take this with you...

Life is unpredictable , but we can find joy in the present and trust in God's eternal plan for us.

Acknowledging the inevitability of death leads to a deeper appreciation for life .

Engaging intentionally with loved ones and others expresses gratitude for daily blessings .

While our days are numbered , each day offers opportunities for joy and ministry .