Is This It? - Eccl 9
November 15, 2026

Message Recap

Ecclesiastes 9 reminds us that life is both precious and unpredictable. We can make wise decisions, work hard, and follow God faithfully, yet still face circumstances we never expected. Solomon reminds us that while our lives are in God's hands, we aren't promised tomorrow. Rather than living in fear of the unknown, we should recognize the value of the time and opportunities we've been given.

Solomon also challenges us not to become so focused on what we hope to have someday that we overlook the blessings already in front of us. God invites us to enjoy His gifts, invest in our relationships, and find meaning in the ordinary moments of life.

Finally, we are reminded that we cannot control every outcome or guarantee that our efforts will be recognized. But we can choose to live wisely, serve faithfully, and make a difference in the lives of others. Because of Jesus, we can live with purpose today and have a hope that extends beyond this life.

Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**
  Share with the Group your Thanksgiving plans, and your favorite Thanksgiving dish.

- **Reflection:**
  What part of the message resonated with you the most?

Discussion Questions

1. Ecclesiastes 9:4 reminds us that as long as we are alive, we still have hope and opportunity. How might our priorities change if we were more intentional about the limited time we've been given? Is there something you've been putting off that you need to do today?

2. Ecclesiastes 9:7–9 encourages us to enjoy the good gifts God has given us. Why do we sometimes feel like we have to accomplish certain things or reach a particular stage of life before we can enjoy what we already have?

3. How do we manage the tension between planning and preparing for the future while still being present and enjoying life today? What are some signs that we may have drifted outside the healthy middle?

4. Ecclesiastes 9:11 reminds us that even the strongest, smartest, and most capable people cannot control every outcome. How can we remain faithful and make wise decisions when life doesn't turn out the way we expected?

5. In Ecclesiastes 9:14–18, a poor but wise man saves an entire city, yet no one remembers him. Why is recognition or appreciation so important to us? How can we remain motivated to do what is right and serve others even when our efforts go unnoticed?

For Additional Study

Colossians 3:17, 23–24

Paul reminds us to approach everything we do with gratitude and to work wholeheartedly for the Lord rather than for human recognition.

Questions:

- How might our attitudes toward everyday responsibilities change if we viewed them as opportunities to honor God?

- In what area of your life do you need to focus more on being faithful than on receiving recognition or seeing immediate results?

James 4:13–15

James reminds us that we do not know what tomorrow will bring and encourages us to make our plans with humility and dependence on God's will.

Questions:

- How can we plan responsibly for the future without allowing our plans to become more important than God's direction?

- What is one practical change you could make this week to be more intentional with the time, relationships, or opportunities God has given you?