

# ECCLESIASTES

ANCIENT WISDOM FOR REAL LIFE

Joys and Snares

Ecclesiastes 9:1–12

Sunday, August 9, 2020

### 3. The Power \_\_\_\_\_ Death

The Preacher longed for a world free from the snare of death.

The Solution was hidden from the Preacher, but we know His name.

The power over death came through Jesus walking into and overcoming the snare of death on our behalf.

*The Preacher leads his readers on a reflective stroll through a graveyard in Ecclesiastes 9. Surprisingly, amidst the tombstones, we're called to joy and purpose. The Preacher simultaneously laments the evils of death and longs for and anticipates the joy of resurrection. We will see that Jesus delivers us from the snare of death by willingly entering and overcoming the snare himself on our behalf.*

#### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (9:1–6, 11–12)

Death doesn't care about what you've done (9:2–3).

Death erases our names, deeds, and influence in the world (9:5–6).

Death is an evil, unstoppable, unpredictable snare (9:3-5, 12).

#### 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (9:7–10)

	Religious	Secular
Fight	Obedience	Significance
Flight	Detach	Medicate

Death has the power to transform our:

Significance (9:10–11)

Pleasures (9:7)

Obedience (9:8)

Relationships (9:9)

**NEXT WEEK:**

**Give It All Away** | Ecclesiastes 11:1–6

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Growth Group Interaction Guide

*Growth Groups are the glue that holds our church together, the way we find and follow Jesus together. If you are not involved in a Growth Group, now is the time to jump in at [gracecentralcoast.org](http://gracecentralcoast.org).*

*This year, our aim is to see our Growth Groups embody our 3-fold identity as followers of Jesus: Family, Servant, and Missionary. To that end, we're framing our Growth Group Interaction Guide to help groups move in that direction.*

*During the COVID-19 crisis our groups are meeting virtually using Zoom and other online platforms.*

### Connecting Together

*What are your plans for the Fall? How will your group creatively maintain connection in such uncertain days?*

### Digging into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Read Ecclesiastes 9:1–12 together. How did you come under God's Word in the text and message this week? How did God speak to you? What did you learn or what were you reminded of in this study?
2. How has the Snare of Death made you feel in your life?

3. Which fight and flight response(s) to the Snare of Death have you identified in your life? What would it look like to confess and repent of those to the Lord?
4. Explain how death can have a positive and transformative power in our lives.
5. What in particular led you to love and praise Jesus more through this message?
6. **Your Growth Group as a Family:** How can your Growth Group make space in your times together to not only discuss what was helpful or interesting from the message, but also to express your love and praise for God and the Gospel?
7. **Your Growth Group as a Servant/Missionary:** In a world designed to distract us from death, who can your growth group pray for and reach out to with the truth about the One who has the power over death?

### Praying Together

- Pray for the checking and dissipation of this Covid-19 virus.
- Pray for the the healing of individuals and communities that contacted the Covid-19 virus.
- Pray for the safety of healthcare and others working on the frontlines of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for the financial provision of businesses and individuals who have lost work because of this Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for wisdom for county, state and national leaders as they make crucial decisions during this Covid-19 crisis.
- Pray for racial reconciliation in our world.
- Pray for protection for those seeking to do justice.