

December 20, 2020
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Ecclesiastes: Ancient Wisdom Learned In 2020
Ep. 6 NOT SO MEANINGLESS AFTER ALL
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Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

⁷ Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do. ⁸ Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. ⁹ Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun. ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

Sheol: **Sheol** (/ʃiːoʊl/ *SHEE-ohl*, /-oʊl/; Hebrew: שְׁאוֹל Šə'ōl), in the Hebrew Bible, is a place of darkness to which the dead go. Under some circumstances they are thought to be able to be contacted by the living. Sheol is also called Hades in Greek.

Possible understandings of Sheol/Hades:

1. **A place of waiting:** "Bosom of Abraham" refers to the place of comfort in the Biblical Sheol (or Hades in the Greek Septuagint version of the Hebrew scriptures from around 200 BC, and therefore so described in the New Testament where the righteous dead await Judgment Day.
2. **A place of torment:** **Luke 16:23** *In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.*
3. **A place of eternal slumber:** **Job 7:7-10** *Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again. The eye that now sees me will see me no longer; you will look for me, but I will be no more. As a cloud vanishes and is gone, so one who goes down to the grave does not return. He will never come to his house again; his place will know him no more.*

Early insights into the resurrection of the dead:

Daniel 12:2 (600 BC): *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Christianity centers around Jesus' work on the cross and the redemption and resurrection of the dead.

Jesus: Luke 14:4 *For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.*

Paul: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*

3 Insights of Purpose from Ecclesiastes 9

- Whatever you do, God will perfect it.
- Whatever you do, God wants to sanctify it.
- Whatever you do, God implores you to do with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

¹ <https://tinyurl.com/y7frvjlx> Short link to extra study on Sheol and Hades

1. **God's Perfected Will vs. God's Perfect Will - Vs. 7** *Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has **already approved what you do.***
 - **Proverbs 3:5-7** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.*
 - **Psalm 37:4** *Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
 - **Romans 8:28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*
 - **Ecclesiastes 5:19-20** *Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.*
2. **Keep it Holy - Vs. 8** *Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil.*
3. **With All of Your Might - Vs. 10** *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.,*

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS: Our small groups are currently on break and will begin again in 2020. Sign up now! Contact assist@ljcfemail.org.
