

"The Mystery of Life" 18th in "The Good Life" Series Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:6 May 28, 2017 Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God shows how the mystery of life points to God, his sovereignty, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Text: Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:6

1) The mystery of life is proof that every area of life, including your life, belongs to God alone (8:16-17).

2)	The mys	stery of life is answered by God's sovereignty, a truth that guides and comforts in life (9:1-6)
	a)	God is in complete control (v. 1).
	<i>b</i>)	Difficult things happen to all people (vv. 2-3).
	c)	Life is better than death – and Jesus Christ is that life (vv. 4-6).

Response

• Let the mystery of life push you to God ... and to the gospel of Jesus Christ.



The Mystery of Life Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:6

Would you like to be involved in a Small group? Contact Pastor Brad at pastorbrad@hefc.net

1)	Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
2)	Reflect for a few minutes on interpreting Ecclesiastes. Has this been a harder book to interpret and if so, why? How has this book helped you understand God, the gospel, and/or life?
3)	In Ecclesiastes 8:16 the Preacher suggests that the search for meaning (aka, wisdom) is an exhausting human endeavor that cannot be accomplished. How have you wrestled with the meaning of life, now or in the past?
4)	Let's get more honest. How have you wrestled with life's difficulties – like the really hard stuff? If you were open and vulnerable right now, what things have happened or could happen to make you question life and God?
5)	In Ecclesiastes 8:17 the Preacher says all this "wrestling" with the mystery and difficulty of life pointed him to God, specifically "the work of God." What does he mean by that phrase?
6)	Ecclesiastes 9:1 makes a clear statement: God is in complete control ("in the hands of God"). How can a person start believing that truth in practice and not just in principle?

7)	Verses 9:2-3 explains that bad things happen to good and bad people, or believers and non-believers. What makes Christians think that faith in Christ somehow makes life better in this world? Why is this perspective dangerous, especially in regard to how it distorts the gospel?
8)	How might God actually use the equal spread of "bad things" among Christians and non-Christians for the good of the world and for his own glory?
9)	Verses 9:4-6 are some of the most pessimistic (negative) verses in all of Ecclesiastes, maybe in the whole Bible. What is the author trying to say in those verses? How does the full story of the Bible (the gospel) help provide a more positive interpretation of those verses?
10)	What difficult issue are you dealing with in your life right now? How might this passage encourage you to allow that difficulty to point you to God, to his sovereignty, and/or to the gospel of Jesus Christ?
of	rther study this week: Romans 11:25-26 on the mystery of God (Mon) Psalm 90 on the sovereignty God (Tues); Matthew 5:43-48 on equal distribution of good and evil (Wed); Psalm 97 on God's nplete control (Thurs); 1 John 5:13-20 on living life in God (Fri).
F	PRAYER REQUESTS:
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