**A Beautiful Life**

God’s Promises For **This Present Life** & **The Life To Come** (1 Timothy 4:8)

2 - **The Life That Now Is…**

* In Luke 18:29-30; Jesus addressed both ***“the present life”*** and ***“the life to come”*** in promising God’s blessings.
* How are Christians today to manage their ***“present life”*** while keeping focused on the ***“life to come”*?**
* **They understood the challenge** & it is so for us as well.
* Being disciples of Christ and believers in the word of God, **we need to look to the Bible to help navigate our life here** in **preparation for the life to come**.

3 - **What Are We Seeking?**

* **Happiness vs. Blessedness.**
* Key contrast: **happiness is circumstantial** while **blessedness transcends temporal circumstances**.
* “**Blessed**” - “The state of the believer in Christ… ’ **Makarios’ differs from happy because happy is the person who has good luck** (from the root ‘hap’, favorable circumstances). A blessed person is one whom God makes fully satisfied, **not because of favorable circumstances**, but because” of the fellowship enjoyed through Christ… “ **his satisfaction comes from God and not from favorable circumstances**.” (Zodhiates)

**4 - The Wisdom of Solomon**

* Solomon sought answers on what is best for man in his days on earth – described as ***“life under the sun****”*.
* Solomon sought ultimate fulfillment by not withholding anything from his eyes and found *“****all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun****.”* (Eccles. 2:1-11)

**5- The Wisdom of Solomon**

* **Without God**, the pursuit of temporal pleasures will not provide lasting satisfaction.
* Solomon eventually realized that **only with God** can we find true fulfillment.
	+ - Note: temporal pleasures and satisfaction of fleshly lusts do provide some *“****passing pleasures****”*. (Hebrews 11:25)
* *“This also I have seen that* ***it is from the hand of God****. For* ***who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him****?”* (Ecclesiastes 2:24-26)

**6 - The Wisdom of Solomon**

Only with God…

* Ecclesiastes 3:12; *“I know that there is nothing better for them than to* ***rejoice and to do good in one’s lifetime****; moreover, that every man who eats and drinks* ***sees good in all his labor – it is the gift of God.****”*
* God has given to man the blessing of enjoying the fruit of his labor and using his blessings for “***good***”. (Galatians 6:10)

**7 - The Wisdom of Solomon**

Only with God…

*“Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth,* ***He has also empowered him*** *to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor;* ***this is the gift of God****. 20 For* ***he will not often consider the years of his life****, because* ***God keeps him occupied with the gladness of his heart****.”* (Ecclesiastes 5:19-20; cf., 6:2 & Luke 12:16-21)

**8 - The Wisdom of Solomon**

Only with God…

*“Let your clothes be white all the time, and let not oil be lacking on your head.* ***9 Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life*** *which He has given to you under the sun****; for this is your reward in life*** *and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun. 10* ***Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might****; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.”* (Ecclesiastes 9:8-10; Proverbs 5:18; Psalms 127:3-5; 128)

Enjoy the gift from God of family and work while keeping your loyalty with God. (Remember Luke 14:19, 26)

**9 - The Wisdom of Solomon**

Ecclesiastes 11:9, *“****Rejoice****, young man, during your childhood (youth), and let your heart be pleasant (cheer you) during the days of young manhood (youth). And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes.* ***Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things****.”*

* Rejoice in the time God gives you *“under the sun”* yet keep in mind that the God who blesses also judges.
* To consider what we DO and DON”T DO!
* **God the Judge of all!**

**10 - The Wisdom of Solomon**

Ecclesiastes 11:10, *“So,* ***remove*** *grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.”*

* *“****So****…”* because of the *“****judgment for all these things****.”*
* What *“****grief and anger… and pain****”* is to be *“****removed****”?* (Galatians 6:8; 1 Peter 4:15)
* Those *“****impulses of (the) heart****”* that will bring about eternal consequences!
* Our responsibilities to God include both to *“****flee****”* and *“****pursue****”* (1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22)

**11 - The Wisdom of Solomon**

**Ecclesiastes 12:1, *“Remember your Creator*** *in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, ‘I have no delight in them’”.*

Remember we are not our own! (Psalms 95:6-7; 100; 119:73ff; 1 Corinthians 6:19)

(Warnings about forgetting our Creator… Deut. 8:18)

It doesn’t get easier to serve God later in life! Note the ***“evil days”*** in light of Ephesians 5:16.

A lifetime of walking by the flesh will not easily give way to a life of walking by the Spirit!

**God the Creator of all!**

**12 - The Wisdom of Solomon**

***“The conclusion, when all has been heard…”***

**(Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)**

“…***fear God and keep His commandments****, because this applies to every person (for this is the whole duty of man, ESV; for this is the whole of man, ASV; for this is man’s all, NKJV****). For God will bring every act to judgment****, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil*.”