

"In the world of creatures, we may only enjoy what we do not worship."
- Doug Wilson

Outline

1. We don't know how, but God controls the life and times of His people, Ecclesiastes 8:16-17; 9:1.
2. In the same way, God controls the destiny of those who are not His own, Ecclesiastes 9:2.
3. In many instances, the same outcomes apply to the wicked and righteous, Ecclesiastes 9:3.
4. Be happy that you are alive, life is a gift from God, Ecclesiastes 9:4-6.
5. Enjoy the good gifts that God gives: food, drink, marriage, family, work, Ecclesiastes 9:7-12; 2:24-26; 3:11-14; 5:18-20.

"When we work, we are, as those in the Lutheran tradition often put it, the 'fingers of God,' the agents of his providential love for others. This understanding elevates the purpose of work from making a living to loving our neighbor and at the same time releases us from the crushing burden of working primarily to prove ourselves."

-Tim Keller

6. Death comes unexpectedly, death is the ultimate proof that our pretensions to be god are foolish, Ecclesiastes 9:12.