

# A LIVING DOG IS BETTER THAN A DEAD LION ECCLESIASTES 9

Text: Ecc. 9:4

(Ecclesiastes 9:4) "For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion."

Introduction:

## **1. PREPARATION OBSERVED (VS. 1-10)**

### A. Realize death is coming (vs. 2)

(Ecclesiastes 9:2) "All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath."

#### 1. See Heb. 9:27

(Hebrews 9:27) "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

2. Some live and never consider this fact.

B. Regeneration takes place before death  
(vs. 7, 8)

(Ecclesiastes 9:7-8) "Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. {8} Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment."

1. Results of salvation (vs. 9)

(Ecclesiastes 9:9) "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun."

C. Requirement for the living (vs 10)

(Ecclesiastes 9:10) "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

## **2. PERPLEXING OBSERVATION (VS.11,12)**

(Ecclesiastes 9:11-12) "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches

to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. {12} For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them."

A. Things do not always go as one would think.

(Ecclesiastes 9:11) "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

1. The swift doesn't always win
2. The strong doesn't always conquer.
3. The smart doesn't always have food.
4. The wealth doesn't always go to those of understanding.

B. All is God's Hand

(Ecclesiastes 9:11) "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to

men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

### 1. God's way is perfect

(Psalms 18:30) "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

C. We never know when many things will occur, that is why much is said about preparation.

(Ecclesiastes 9:12) "For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them."

## **3. PARABLE OFFERED**

A. Distress of the enemy (vs 14)

(Ecclesiastes 9:14) "There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:"

B. Deliverance offered (A picture of Christ)

(Ecclesiastes 9:15) "Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man."

1. Poor

2. Wise

### C. Disturbing fact (vs. 16)

(Ecclesiastes 9:16) "Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard."

1. Rejection of wisdom

2. Reminder of what one sinner can do.