

Ecclesiastes 6:3-9

It is a good life living for the Lord, and you know that if you are saved and you are living for Him today. If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Savior, then you need to ask Him to come into your heart right now. "Lord, forgive me of my sin. I receive You as my Savior. I'm turning everything over to you."

And might I say that for some people that may seem like, "Oh, I'm giving up everything for the Lord." Well, in essence, you are, but you're not. He's going to give you even more than you ever bargained for, more than this life has to offer. He offers you eternal life and you can receive that eternal life and realize that Jesus Christ came, He lived, and He died. He is God. He died for you. He shed His blood on the cross of Calvary. He died, but thank God, He's alive today, and because He's alive, you can live. You can live by trusting Him as your Savior. You can receive the free gift that God offers to all men and women today, and that free gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. No man comes to the Father except through Him, through Jesus Christ.

Today, on "It's a Good Life," we want to continue our study in Chapter 6 in the book of Ecclesiastes, and we pick our study up with verses 3-6. And I ask this question: What if? What if? In verses 3-6, it says, ³*If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial...* In other words, even if he does not die physically. Solomon goes on to say, *I say, that an untimely birth is better than he.* ⁴*For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness.* ⁵*Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other.* ⁶*Yea, though he*

live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?

Let's look at these verses one at a time. Ecclesiastes 6:3, once again, says: *If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial...* even if he does not die physically... *I say, that an untimely birth is better than he.*

If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many, many years but his soul is not satisfied with what he has, in other words, even though good, even if this man doesn't die, a stillborn, untimely child is better off than that man. That's what that means there... "untimely," stillborn. In other words, the child was conceived and the child was born but stillborn, no breath. That child is better off than that man, according to verse 3, even though, according to verse 4, he cometh in with vanity. The child comes in vanity, with nothing, that stillborn child, and departs in darkness. In other words, the child never saw the light of day.

In Ecclesiastes 6:4, it goes on to say that this child departs in darkness and his name shall be covered with darkness. Nobody knows. The child's name was covered with darkness. There's no name and no life, according to verse 4, and in verse 5, *Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known anything.* The child has not seen the sun. He hasn't seen anything. In verse 5, *this hath more rest than the other.* That stillborn child has more rest than the afflicted of verse 2. We read that in verse 5.

Ecclesiastes 6:6 says, *Yea, though he live a thousand years...* this is the man that's living now... *Yea, though he live a thousand years*

twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place? Even if the person of verse 3 of Chapter 6 lives 2,000 years but still does not recognize the good he has had, he is no better off and even not as well off as the stillborn child, because each goes to the same place... the grave, the grave.

Let's look further now and we look in verses 7-12, and I see here the reflections on riches. You notice how Solomon talks about life and death and riches, having this and having that and not having. The main thing that I believe God is trying to get across to us here is that everything comes from Him, even the ability to enjoy the things that come from Him.

You say, "Wait a minute now. I've worked for everything I've got. I've worked hard, and the things that I have I've worked hard." Well, God has given you the ability to work hard. God wants you to work hard, but God wants you to understand that the things that you have in this life are not the most important things for your life. The most important thing that you could have is Jesus Christ as your Savior, and if you are saved, the most important thing for you is to serve Jesus Christ. The first way, I believe, that we serve Him is to tell others about Him, letting them know that there's more to this life in the next life, and that eternal life comes through Jesus Christ.

Notice verses 7-12 now of Ecclesiastes chapter 6. First of all, verses 7-9 says: *⁷All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled. ⁸For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living? ⁹Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.*

Riches cannot satisfy the soul, according to verses 7-9. If you'll read Proverbs 15:16 and 19:1 and 28:6, you'll see that this is carried out or we see the evidence of that... that the riches cannot satisfy the soul. In verse 7, all work of a man is for sustenance, the necessities of life, but he is never satisfied. The natural man is never satisfied and wants more and more and more. It's as though he's searching for something. I got news for you. God says, "The search ends here with Me. Everything that you have comes from Me and the ability to enjoy the things that you have comes from Me."

And verse 8, the first part of that verse says, *For what hath the wise more than the fool?* What's the difference between the wise and the fool? What does the wise have that the fool doesn't?

Adam Clark's commentary on the Bible according to him, Ecclesiastes 6:8, says, "For what has the wise more than the fool? They must both labor for the same end. Both depend upon the labor of themselves or others for the necessities of life. Both must eat and drink in order to live, and the rich man can no more eat two meals at a time than he can comfortably wear two changes of raiment. The necessities of life are the same for both, and their condition in life is nearly similar, liable to the same diseases, disillusion, and death."

The next part of verse 8 says, *what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?* What does the poor person possess? Who knows how to live his life properly before others? That would be the living.

Proverbs 15:16... I mentioned these verses before. Now, let's read them. Proverbs 15:16 says, *Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.*

I've met a lot of people in my ministry and I might say that I've seen all kinds. I've seen rich and I've seen poor, and I've met poor people who are happier than the rich person. These people may not have a lot of anything, but they are happy because they give God the glory for it. They've learned to be satisfied with what God has given them, and they rejoice with what God has given them.

Proverbs 19:1 says, *Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.*

Proverbs 28:6 says, *Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.*

We need to learn to live with what God has given us. We need to realize that, once again, everything comes from God even the ability to enjoy what we have.

Once again, I've seen poor people who are happier than that rich person who wants to get more and more and more and is never satisfied.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 says, *Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.* In verse 9, it is better to have something that is real, in other words, that can be seen, than simply to wish for something you don't have. This is desiring something that maybe somebody else has and you want it. We shouldn't do that. Wishing for something without taking action to get it is worthless and only produces frustration.

Now, once again, wanting something that someone else has is contrary to the Word of God. When we see something and we want it, the Bible says we need to work for it and when we get it we need to give God the glory,

because He is the one who has made it possible to have it through our life.

I thank God daily for the breath that He gives me. I thank God for being able to wake up in the mornings. I thank God for giving me the strength to make it through another day, and I thank God for what He has given me in this world to use, in other words, the necessary things for life, the things that He has provided, and the ability to use those things that He's provided.

I wonder today have you given God all the glory in your life? Are you saved? Do you know Christ as your Savior? If you do know Him as your Savior, you need to be giving Him all the glory. Remember, it's only what we send on ahead that's going to count. We send things on ahead to Heaven. Those things are that we work for Him on this Earth.

Now, once again, I'm not saying that you don't work to make a living, but I'm saying that, as you work, you need to give God the glory and realize that it comes from Him, and then you need to be working for Him in telling others about Jesus Christ. You need to belong to a good Bible-believing, Bible-teaching local church, one that teaches the fundamental doctrines of the Word of God, not straying but teaching the actual Word of God. I use the King James Version. I see no use in using any other version that comes from a man. I see using the King James Version as the most accurate, and we should not stray from something that has been proven down through the ages.

If you do not know Christ as your Savior, you need to ask Him to come into your heart right now. "Lord Jesus, I'm sorry for my sin. I can't save myself. Please save me. I receive You as my Savior right now.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.