

Ecclesiastes 9 • Extracting the Good from Life

1. (v.1) There's a big difference between not knowing what life will bring without **trust** in God and not knowing what life will bring yet **trusting** in Him.
2. (v.2-6) The only advantage the pursuits of **this** life can bring is if they are rendered in **concert** with God's **will** and **ways** leading to the rewards of the **next** life.
3. (v.7-10) The rewards for this life are to enjoy in **moderation** what is attained in the course of our successful efforts to maintain a right **relationship** with God.
4. (v.11-12) Nothing occurs as the result of our personal **strength** or **will** because "time and chance" are controlled by **God** to produce **His** desired outcome.
5. (v.13-18) Often there is great attentiveness to God in times of extreme **stress** or **persecution**, but a tendency to wander away during times of relative **peace** and **blessing**.
6. *The Parable of the Minas (Lk. 19:11-27)*
 - a. It's not "**how much**" we've been given, but what **we do** with whatever we've been given.
 - b. Not doing anything is a form of **rebellion**.
 - c. What each individual does is their own **choice**, but they will be held **accountable** both in this life and the one to come.