

GO, EAT YOUR BREAD WITH JOY
Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

Oakridge Community Church
Questions for Consideration and Discussion

Introduction:

1. Ecclesiastes 8:17
2. Ecclesiastes 9:1

Go, Eat Your Bread with Joy
Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

I. THE EVIDENCE THAT WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL

- A. Found in our ignorance of the future – 9:1
- B. Found in our certainty about the future
 1. 9:2-6
 2. 7:20
- C. Found in our uncertainty about the present – 9:11-12

II. THE WAY IN WHICH WE OUGHT TO LIVE 9:10-12

- A. Go! – 9:7
- B. Enjoy every meal! – 9:7
 1. Genesis 1:29; 9:3
 2. 1 Timothy 4:3; 6:17
- C. Rejoice evermore! – 9:8 (cf. Isaiah 61:3)
- D. Enjoy life with your spouse! – 9:9
- E. Carry out your responsibilities with gusto! – 9:10

Conclusion

1. 1 Timothy 6:17
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:16
3. Philippians 4:4

1. What factors in your life most effectively remind you that you are not in control? What is your usual response when those reminders appear?
2. Why should we as believers both know and embrace the fact that we are not in control? Why can this at times be difficult to accept?
3. How does the fact that your death is imminent impact you? In what ways does this fact contribute to understanding that you are not in control? Knowing that death is coming, what adjustments do you need to make to prepare?
4. What situations in your life have had outcomes very different than what you expected? What would you say is the most unpredictable event in your life as far as timing is concerned?
5. Name some common human reactions to the realization that we are not really in control? Evaluate the rightness/wrongness and benefit/harm of those reactions. What makes them right or wrong?
6. Were you surprised by the instruction coming from the Preacher regarding how we should live as those who are not in control? If so, why? If not, why?
7. Has God's purpose in providing blessings like food, marriage, work, etc., changed the way you think about the goodness of God or the way you enjoy what He has provided? How?