

Seeing Life From God's Viewpoint

Ecclesiastes 7:2 (KJV) It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

Ecclesiastes 7:2 (CEV) It's better to go to a funeral than to attend a feast; funerals remind us that we all must die.

- This life is not all there is; in fact, life on earth is just the dress rehearsal before the real production. You will spend far more time on the other side of death – in eternity – than you will on this side.
- Think about how long you will live at most on earth, and then consider that you will spend forever in eternity. You were made by God to last forever; you have an inborn instinct that longs for immortality. That's why death always seems unnatural and unfair.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT) God ... has planted eternity in the human heart ...

- One day your heart will stop beating; that will be the end of your body and your time on earth, but it will not be the end of you. Your body is just a temporary residence for your spirit. That's why the Bible calls your earthly body a "tent" but refers to your future body as a "house."

2 Corinthians 5:1 (TEV) For we know that when this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.

- While life on earth offers many choices, eternity offers only two – heaven or hell. Your relationship to God on earth will determine your relationship to Him in eternity. What you do with God's plan of salvation is absolutely crucial! If you choose to live without God on earth, you will have to live apart from Him throughout eternity.
- That's why it's better to attend a funeral than a feast – because if you really comprehend that life is just a preparation for eternity, you will begin to live differently, with eternity always in mind. It will color how you handle every relationship and circumstance in life.
- In light of eternity, many activities, goals and problems that seemed so important suddenly appear trivial, petty and unworthy of your attention. The closer you live to God, the smaller everything else appears. When you live in light of eternity, your values change!

Philippians 3:7 (NLT) I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.

- The most damaging aspect of contemporary living is short-term thinking. But death is not your termination, it is your transition into eternity. Our minds cannot even comprehend such wonder!

1 Corinthians 2:9 (LB) That is what is meant by the Scriptures which say that no mere man has ever seen, heard, or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord.

- The only time most people think about eternity is at funerals, and then it's often only shallow, sentimental thinking based on ignorance. It's not morbid to think about death; in fact, it's unhealthy to live in denial of death and not consider the inevitable.
- Only fools would go through life unprepared for what we all know will eventually happen. We need to think more about eternity, not less!
- The nine months you spent in your mother's womb were not an end in themselves, but a preparation for this life; and this life is the same – it is preparation for eternal life!
- For those that obey the gospel, death is not to be feared – it is simply a birthday into eternal life and a doorway into the presence of the God that they knew here on earth.

Hebrews 13:14 (LB) For this world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:6 (LB) Now we look forward with confidence to our heavenly bodies, realizing that every moment we spend in these earthly bodies is time spent away from our eternal home in heaven with Jesus.

- Measured against eternity, our time on earth is just a blink of an eye, but the consequences of this life will last forever. The deeds of this life become the destiny of the next.

James 1:12 (GW) Blessed are those who endure when they are tested. When they pass the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Matthew 25:21 (NIV) His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'