

# LIVING AND DYING “IN THE HAND OF GOD”

Ecclesiastes 9:1-3

ECCLESIASTES: LIFE UNDER THE SON

**Something is defining life for you and is defining you.**  
The Bible reveals a very **disturbing** truth about you:  
there is “something at the center” of you, and it  
determines why and how you live your life.



“I love myself now. Self-love means that I have a relationship with myself built on trust and loyalty. I trust myself to have my own back, so my allegiance is to the voice within. I’ll abandon everyone else’s expectations of me before I’ll abandon myself. I’ll disappoint everyone else before I’ll disappoint myself. I’ll forsake all others before I forsake myself. Me and myself: *we are till death do us part.*”

*If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.*

Mark 8:34

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Mark 8:34

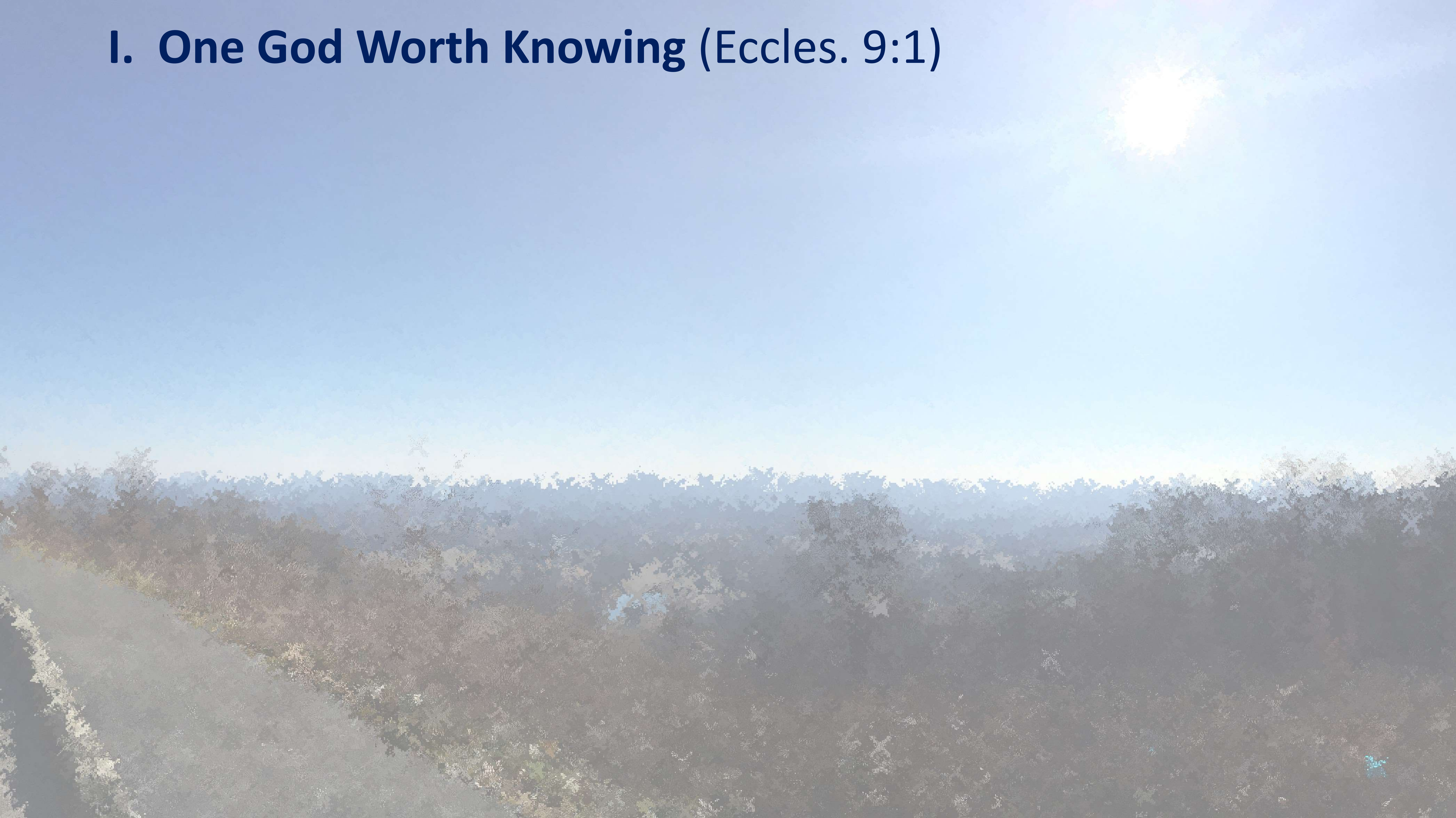
*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self...*

2 Timothy 3:1-2

*...with the knowledge of [God's] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that [they would] walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...*

Colossians 1:9-10

# I. One God Worth Knowing (Eccles. 9:1)



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“When you move from your experience to God, you always distort God... when you *see* God [and life] through those experiences, you distort God.

The Bible turns this upside down.

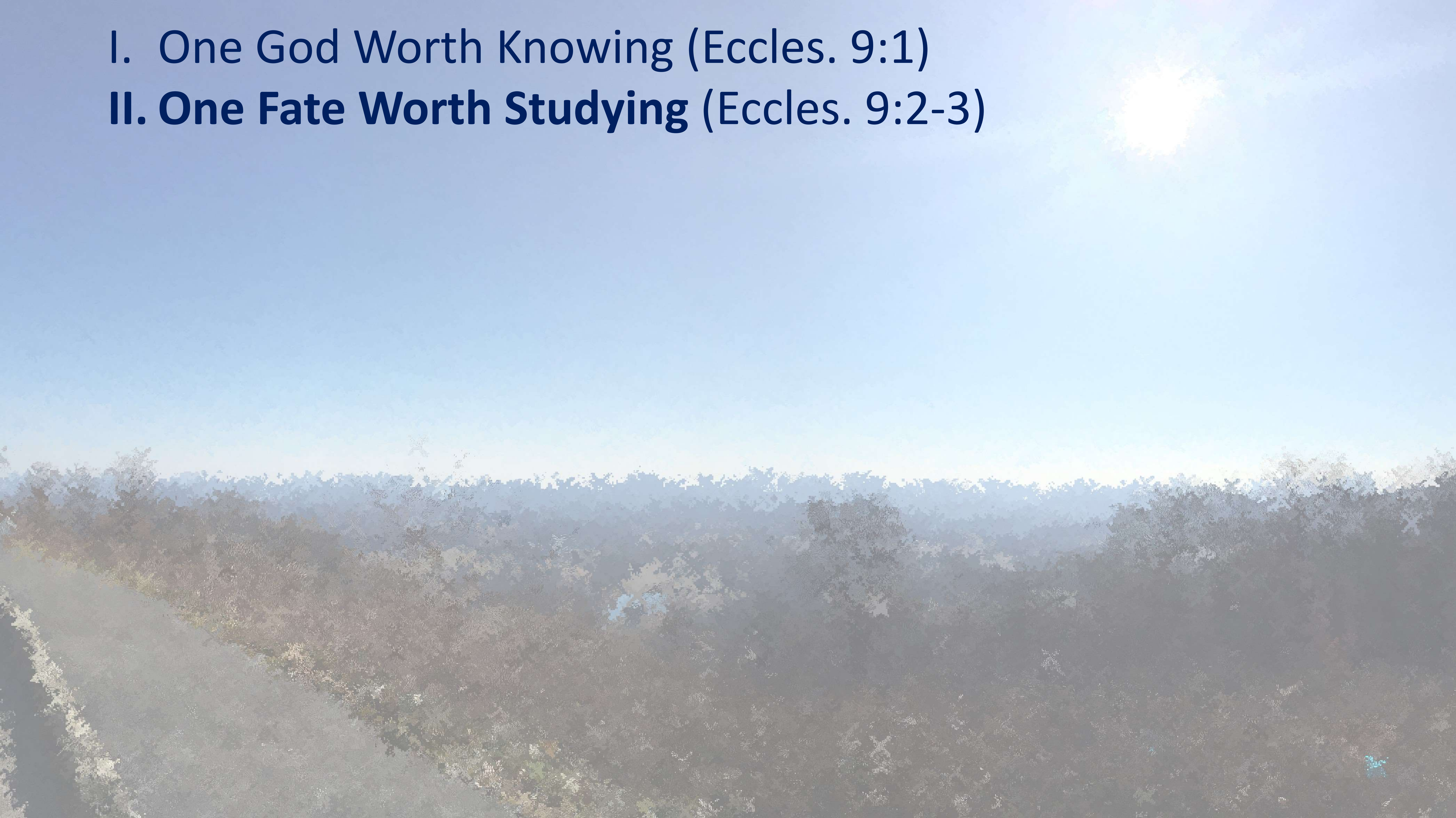
Don't start from your experiences and work up to God. Start from God and work down to your experiences, whether past or present. Define who God is, and then bring that to bear on what's happening in your life.”

*John Bettler*



I. One God Worth Knowing (Eccles. 9:1)

**II. One Fate Worth Studying (Eccles. 9:2-3)**



I. One God Worth Knowing (Eccles. 9:1)

II. **One Fate Worth Studying** (Eccles. 9:2-3)

A **righteous/wise** person puts his/her faith in God alone for forgiveness of sins and lives out that faith in a **lifestyle** that is self-denying, morally upright, God-pleasing, and God-honoring.

# God-fearers   *versus*   God-fleers

righteous

wicked

good/clean

unclean

offers a sacrifice

does not sacrifice

good man

sinner

swearer (oath-maker)

afraid to swear

I. One God Worth Knowing (Eccles. 9:1)

II. **One Fate Worth Studying** (Eccles. 9:2-3)

The **truth** is that every person lives in the evil and insanity of the sin of their hearts because...there is no fear of God in their hearts (Eccles. 8:12-13).

I. One God Worth Knowing (Eccles. 9:1)

II. **One Fate Worth Studying** (Eccles. 9:2-3)

**Apart from God, evil controls our hearts unchecked, and insanity (madness) characterizes our attitudes and actions. **Sin is insane**—it's **foolish** and **senseless**.**

I. One God Worth Knowing (Eccles. 9:1)

II. **One Fate Worth Studying** (Eccles. 9:2-3)

*There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

Proverbs 14:12

I. One God Worth Knowing (Eccles. 9:1)

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*There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

Proverbs 14:12

*The foolishness of man ruins his way, and his heart rages against the Lord.*

Proverbs 19:3



GRACE CHURCH  
WILLIAMSBURG

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