

What Wise People Understand

Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

I. Wise people understand that there are two things in life that we can always count on (vv. 1–6).

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A. We are in God's hands (v.1a).

But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God (9:1a).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16).

For I am sure that neither death nor life. . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom.8:38-39)

B. We are going to die (vv.2-6).

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1. Everyone dies, no matter who you are or what you do (vv.2-3).

It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath.

*This is an evil in all that is done under the sun,
that the same event happens to all. Also, the
hearts of the children of man are full of evil,
and madness is in their hearts while they live,
and after that they go to the dead. (vv.2-3)*

2. It's important that we live life while we can (vv.4-6).

But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵ For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun. (vv.4-6)

II. Wise people understand that there are many things in life that we cannot count on
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Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. (v.1).

Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them. (vv.11-12)

III. Wise people understand that the simple things in life bring us the most joy (vv.7-10).

Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going. (vv.7-10)

“It reveals the way in which the Preacher looks at the world as we know it and takes us to the heart of his purpose in writing Ecclesiastes. He wrote his book to smash into tiny pieces our idea that we can be like God. We aspire to have it all, know it all, do it all, achieve it all, be happy forever, have all the answers, never be left scratching our head, and be remembered by all for all time. That’s what we hope for.

But what guarantee is there that we won't go under a bus tomorrow? If you knew that would happen to you tomorrow, how would you live today? That is the whole point of Ecclesiastes. The life you have today comes from God's hand as a gift. You have it for a short while, and one day God will call time and take it back. Enjoy life with your wife today because tomorrow she might be gone—or you might be.”

- David Gibson

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1. We need to enjoy the simple things in life like food and drink:

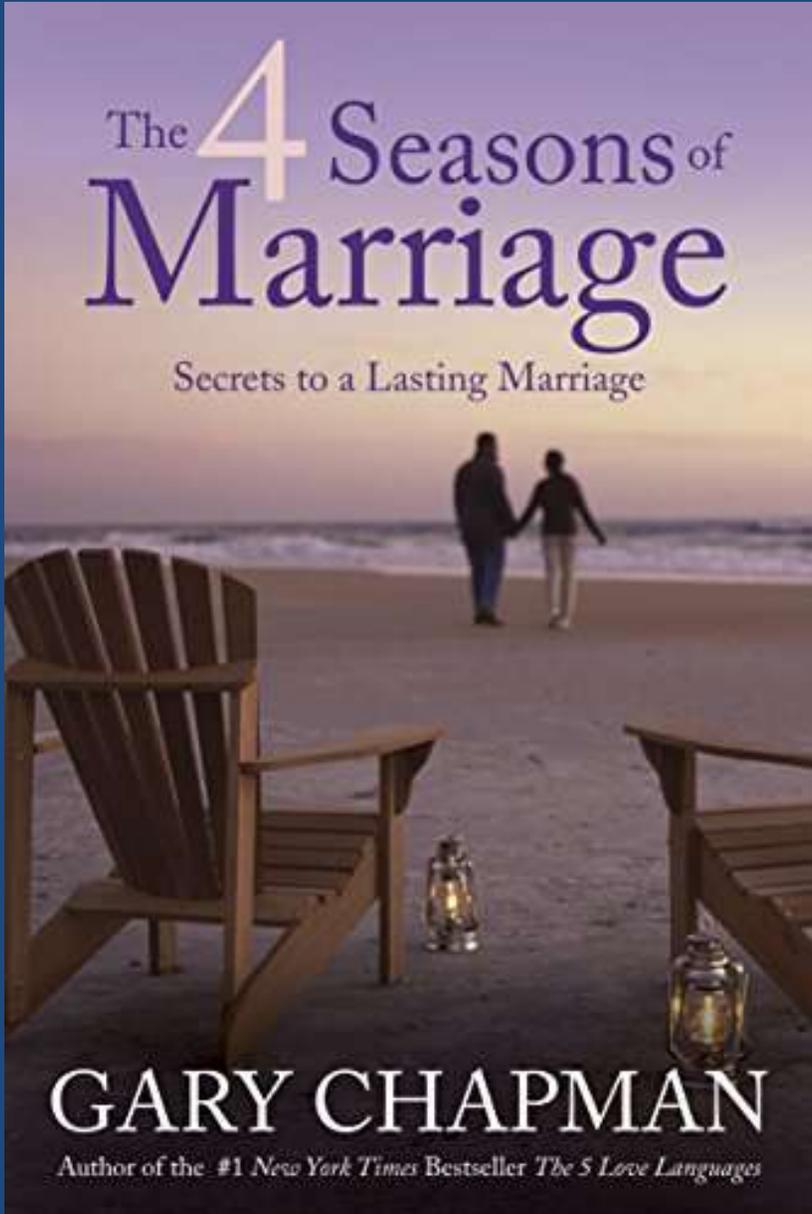
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2. We need to look like we are enjoying the gifts of God (v.8).

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1. We need to enjoy the simple things in life like food and drink:
2. We need to look like we are enjoying the gifts of God (v.8).
3. We need to enjoy life with our spouse if we are married.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:24)



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C. God wants us to do whatever we do to the best of our ability, while we can (v.10).

. . . whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
(1 Cor.10:31)