

**LIVING LIFE WITH JOY**

**Eccl. 9:4-9**

**THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE WITH THE LIVING**

“But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

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.  
Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished;  
Nevermore will they have a share  
In anything done under the sun.”

Eccl. 9:4-7

1. Solomon is still very concerned and dismal about death
2. He was focusing on what the dead cannot do anymore
3. The dead
  - a. A living dog is better than a dead lion
  - b. The dead know nothing
  - c. They have no more rewards
  - d. The memory of them is forgotten
  - e. All their feelings have perished
    - i. Their love
    - ii. Their hatred
    - iii. Their envy
2. The living
  - a. Those who are living can still have hope
  - b. A living dog is better than a dead lion
  - c. The living know that they will die one day

**LEARNING TO LIVE WITH JOY**

1. Reasons for joy
  - a. God blessing our work

“For God has already accepted your works.” Eccl. 9:8

- b. God giving us life

“But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.”  
Eccl. 9:4

2. Aspects of rejoicing

- a. Eat and drink with joy

“Go, eat your bread with joy,  
And drink your wine with a merry heart;” Eccl. 9:7

- b. Enjoying good things

“Let your garments always be white, And let your head lack no oil.” Eccl. 9:8

- c. Living joyfully with our family

“Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that *is* your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.” Eccl. 9:9

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

1. Living our life well

- a. With hope  
b. Treasuring the life we have

2. Learning to find joy in life

- a. Bringing God into the picture with reference to work  
b. Enjoying our meals  
c. Living one’s life well  
d. Having personal grooming  
e. Living joyfully with our family members

3. Seeing all that God has blessed us with as our portion in life