

A.M. OUTLINE  
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## SOLOMON'S LESSONS FROM A FUNERAL

(Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 13)

**INTRODUCTION** - (Ecc. 7:2) "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 take it to heart."

Solomon is speaking to the living, those in attendance at the funeral, to us.  
We learn more from sorrow than we do from laughter.

### 1. (v1-2) THE CERTAINTY OF DEATH FOR YOU AND ME

(v2) "one event happens to the righteous and the wicked ... " - death

(v5) "For the living know that they will die"

(Hebrews 9:27) "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."

### 2. (v3-10) LESSONS FROM A FUNERAL

1) **Don't deny that death will happen:** (v3) "... one thing happens to all ... they live, and after that they go to the dead."

2) **The living have hope:** (v4-6) "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 ... "

It is better to be a despised dog and alive, than to be the king of beasts, but dead.  
While we are alive, we have opportunity to obey the gospel, become a Christian.  
(v6) "... nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun"

3) **Enjoy meal-time:** (v7) "Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already accepted your works."

Enjoy meal-time with family and friends before a death takes one away.  
(James 4:13-15) "... you do not know what will happen tomorrow ... you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

4) **Stop, smell the roses:** (v8) "Let your garments always be white, and let you head lack no oil" - meaning, celebrate life.

(Psalm 118:24) "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"  
(Philippians 4:4) "Rejoice in the Lord ... "  
Live life as a Christian, stop, and give thanks for bountiful blessings.

5) **Keep adding relish on your marriage:** (v9) "Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun ... "

Live and love with the purpose of each of you going to heaven.

6) **Give your best to your work while living:** (v10) "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work ... in the grave where you are going"

### 3. (v11-12) THERE'S "IF" IN THE MIDDLE OF LIFE

(v11-12) "... but time and chance happen to them all. For man also does not know his time ... "

Solomon tells us that life is not fair, the best person does not always win, and you may do your best and come in last.  
These are life-lessons, hard lessons, but lessons that will be learned in life.  
Things in life don't always go the way in which we think they should.