

Life in light of eternity - wisdom from Ecclesiastes for today

David Gibson: Seminar 3

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This seminar is the third in a series of four. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, youth group or friends. The questions/reflections provided may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life.

WATCH THE VIDEO:

[Seminar 3:
tinyurl.com/4s2ytpa7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tinyurl.com/4s2ytpa7)

SEMINAR OUTLINE

How can the day of death possibly be better than the day of birth (Ecclesiastes 7:2)? Ecclesiastes is a meditation on the fact that we are whispers in the wind, here one minute and gone the next.

QUESTIONS

1. Death is God saying a resounding 'No!' to which of our wrong desires?
 2. How is the image of death as a surgeon helpful?
 3. What difference does it make to see life as 'gift not gain'?
 4. How does Ecclesiastes 12:1-5 illustrate the principle that, 'we do not die wholly at our deaths' (William Hazlitt)?
 5. What are the 'take-home' truths from Ecclesiastes 12:1-8?
 6. According to Ecclesiastes 7:1-4 how does a wise person think about death and mourning?
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REFLECTION/PRAYER

- Write your own eulogy – an honest assessment of what you think people would say about your life. Then write down what you would like them to say? Use this exercise to consider what changes you need to make to live well in God's sight.
- 'I shall look at the world through tears. Perhaps I shall see things that, dry-eyed, I could not see' (Nicholas Wolterstorff). Discuss with a friend how your tears have shaped you, your perception of life and your priorities?
- Pray for any in your group who are in the 'house of mourning' now. Pray that in their intense grief they would one day be able to receive the gifts that only suffering can give.
- Read one of the books recommended in the seminar - 'A Grace Disguised' by Jerry Sittser or 'Lament for a Son' by Nicholas Wolterstorff.