

Qoheleth's Red Pill, Eccl. 9:1-18
Grace Covenant Church, 8/25/19
Morning Worship

Introduction:

- A. Unhelpful Mantras that Don't Accord with Reality
 - B. These Mantras Often Bring Disillusionment
 - C. Qoheleth's Red Pill
 - 1. Qoheleth's Red Pill:
 - a. Disabuses us of disillusioning mantras
 - b. Gives us a large dose of reality from a God-centered, not man-centered, perspective.
 - c. Balances out Overly-Wooden Conceptions of Wisdom ("the **rest** of the story")
 - d. Can give us joy and contentment
- I. **What is the Sobering Truth of Qoheleth's Red Pill?**
- A. What is "**all this**" in 9:1? (cf. 8:16–17)
 - 1. The righteous sometimes suffer while the wicked sometimes prosper
 - 2. We cannot understand God's ways. "**All man's deeds are in the hand of God**" (v. 1)
 - B. Death Comes to all (vv. 2 & 3)
 - 1. Regardless of what you do or what you possess
 - 2. The Event of Death is evil
- II. **What is the consolation in Qoheleth's Red Pill?** (vv. 4–11)
- A. In view of the certainty of death and the unpredictability of life, enjoy to the fullest the days God gives you!
 - B. Two Notes of Consolation:
 - 1. The living has more hope, knowledge and potential, than the dead (vv. 4–6)
 - 2. Because you are alive, you can still seize the day! (vv. 7–10)
 - a. **IN THE VOID OF WHAT YOU HAVEN'T ACCOMPLISHED, DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE GOOD GIFTS THAT, BY GOD'S GRACE, YOU HAVE OBTAINED.**
 - b. All of this entails taking advantage of all life has to offer with gratitude to the one who gives it.
 - c. Rejoice in your Portion in Life
- III. **How does Qoheleth's Red Pill Encourage us to Maximize our Portion in this Life?** (v. 11–12)
- A. Recognize the Limits of Your Portion (v. 11)
 - 1. What you are able to accomplish in life is not exclusively due the gifts you've been given but according to the wise direction of the One who gives you those gifts (v. 11a)
 - a. *Time* is in the hand of God (cf. Eccl 3, esp. v. 11)

