

THE GOOD LIFE ECC. 5:18-20

Solomon, under inspiration and from a lifetime of observation, knew what made up the good life:

1. Enjoying God's gift in life for us!

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, **which God giveth him:** for it is his portion.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 Every man also to whom **God hath given** riches and wealth, **and hath given him** power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; **this is the gift of God.**

Simple things like eating, drinking, the good...of our labor / work, riches & wealth, rejoicing in our labor...

What makes the difference:

Happy ↔ the unhappy

Negative ↔ the positive

Bored ↔ the engaged

Critical ↔ the joyful

It's definitely NOT the place or the stuff

It's the disciple...the habit...the practice of enjoying!

1st gift:

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:**

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, **that he gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 4:13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

John 4:14 **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, **which the Son of man shall give unto you:** for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 10:28 **And I give unto them eternal life;** and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. **John 10:29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

This gift:

- Cannot be purchased
- Is not for sale
- Nothing we can do to earn it
- Is a gift
- The greatest gift of all!

Thoughts for developing the discipline:

- Slow down
- Be present
- Show up
- Taste, smell, hear, see, touch...

2. Embracing God's lot in life for us

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: **for it is his portion** (לִקְחָתוֹ). **Ecclesiastes 5:19** Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, **and to take his portion** (לִקְחָתוֹ-גַּם), and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:22 Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; **for that is his portion** (לִקְחָתוֹ): for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: **for that is thy portion** (לִקְחָתוֹ) in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Joshua 15:13 And unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave **a part** among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, even the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron.

Joshua 18:2 And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received **their inheritance**.

Joshua 18:5 And they shall divide it into seven **parts**: Judah shall abide in their coast on the south, and the house of Joseph shall abide in their coasts on the north.

Joshua 18:6 Ye shall therefore describe the land into seven **parts**, and bring the description hither to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.

Joshua 18:7 But the Levites have **no part** among you; for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance: and Gad, and Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh, have received their inheritance beyond Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them.

Joshua 18:9 And the men went and passed through the land, and described it by cities into seven **parts** in a book, and came again to Joshua to the host at Shiloh.

Joshua 18:10 And Joshua **cast lots** for them in Shiloh before the LORD: and there Joshua divided the land unto the children of Israel according to their **divisions**.

God apportions a portion | a slice of life that normally includes:

A place	A time
A home	A view
Abilities	Looks

3. Recognizing God's ability in life for us!

Ecclesiastes 5:19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, **and hath given him power to eat thereof**, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

4. Magnifying God Himself in life...for us!

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which **God** giveth him: for it is his portion.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 Every man also to whom **God** hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; **this is the gift of God**.