

- b. It is an experience of blessing when one appropriates what God has given.

Scriptures

Observations

2:24-26

5:18-20

8:15

9:7-10

God has provided a great amount of good for us and we must see it positively and value it for what He has given. To do this is to enrich us with blessing and this makes life a rich experience of providential contribution. There is a danger in not being content with the gift of God and another in not appropriating the gift of God.

- c. It is a time of preparation and spiritual enrichment:

Scriptures

Observations

3:21

5:7

12:7, 14

We are building what is ours eternally, so to speak, and this gives life an especially happy thrust.

- d. It is an opportunity of service and enrichment for others.

11:1-6, and others

What it all means is that life has good positive "vibes" and we must bring it all into balance by seeing the total picture. Those who wish to live for life's sake alone are doomed to disappointment; those who are willing to live it for God's sake are due for great rejoicing and blessing. The danger is that we often do not make these decisions sufficiently before the fact...suddenly we are faced with the reality that life is winding down and we are not very sure what we have done with it. This is a dangerous street in which to play. The constant challenge is to "fear God" remembering that the one who does this...comes out ahead of them all.

This is the only theme we will look at for the moment. Others may come up as we move through our study.

#### E. Particular Exegesis in Ecclesiastes

This portion of our study will be strengthened by the presentation of student reports and our collective thinking through of a few passages. Many of the next few pages you will need to add yourself... my pagination will continue as above but without detailed material as we work in the text. Be sure in the preparation of these passages