



A MEANINGFUL LIFE IN A MEANINGLESS WORLD

## Carpe Diem!

Ecclesiastes 9:1-18 • Message #9

1. Death is \_\_\_\_\_

2. Life is \_\_\_\_\_

### TAKE HOME TRUTH

*The life you have right now is a gift from God -  
\_\_\_\_\_ it.*

• Enjoy your \_\_\_\_\_.

• Enjoy your \_\_\_\_\_.

• Enjoy your \_\_\_\_\_.

• Enjoy your \_\_\_\_\_.



Next Week - Psalm 103 & Communion



### Growing Deeper

#### Small Group Discussion Question

1. How would you counsel someone who struggles with the inequities of life under the sun? What Scriptures would help?
2. What pleasures should we as believers deny? How do we know the difference?
3. Note the other "enjoyment" passages in Ecclesiastes: 2:24-26; 3:12-13; 5:18. What connects these – common thread?
4. Solomon lists some of the enjoyments of life. What are some you enjoy with God's blessing?
5. How did this chapter speak to you?



## Just a Moment

with Pastor Fred

Canadian pastor and blogger Tim Challies wrote considering his 19-year-old son's sudden death, "By faith I will praise God in the taking as I did in the giving and by faith receive from his hand this sorrow as I have so many joys. I will grieve but not grumble, mourn but not murmur, weep but not whine."

I was sad to listen to a dear friend recently recount how he had buried his grief over his child's stillborn death 50+ years ago. He was listening to his wife provide counsel to a male nurse in his hospital room who was struggling with the death of a child too. Why had my friend hidden his sorrow for so long? Why do we as Christians think it is godly to pretend?

*Grief is normal.* It is normal for people who have loved to experience deep emotional loss. *Grief is natural.* Grieving is being human. We were created to grieve. God created us with emotions. *Grief is necessary.* Grief provides a healthy way to cope with loss. People have apologized for crying. I've assured them they have nothing to apologize for. Ps 6:6, *I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.* What is the worst kind of grief? Your own. Jesus wept at Lazarus' tomb.

The holidays can be a difficult time for those who have lost loved ones. This season of joy is also a season of sorrow. Let us as the Body of Christ be sensitive to those around us. F.B. Meyer wrote, "Jesus is in the rain and the shadow as much as in the light that breaks at dawn." The Apostle acknowledged we grieve – but not like those who have no hope. We have hope because of Christ and his promises.



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Becoming fruitful disciples

“LET US COME INTO  
*His* PRESENCE  
WITH *thanksgiving*”

PSALM 95:2

Prelude

Call to Worship

*My God is All I Need  
(My God is So Big)*

*When Trials Come*

Missions Moment

*Sovereign*

Scripture Reading & Prayer

*Carpe Diem!*  
Pastor Fred Froman

*I Will Rise*

Benediction  
Special Prayer

THE LORD'S DAY  
**November 19, 2023**

Corporate worship is  
God welcoming us with arms  
of grace to enter His holy presence  
with singing and  
His divine courts with praise.

*Loving God,  
Loving People*

**Infant/Toddler Nursery**

Sunday School / ABF: Mary Ann Krepps, Sue Froman  
Worship Service: Sue Depoorter, Kaylen Elliott  
Ronda VanSumeren

**This Week**

Small groups meet today or later in the week

**Today**

9:00am	Coffee & Fellowship
9:30am	Sunday School
9:30am	Proposed Strategic Plan Update
10:30am	Worship Service

**Tuesday, November 21**

6:30pm	Ladies' & Men's Bible Studies
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**Announcements**

**Sympathy** to Jim Chaney on the death of his late wife's father, Haywood McAlexander of VA.

**Deck the Halls** will be next Sunday immediately after the service. We need help carrying decorations from the parsonage basement to the auditorium. If we have enough helpers we're usually done within an hour. Pizza will be available for workers.

**Sweet Talk**, Friday, December 1, is a time of fellowship and dessert at the Fromans for young couples. Please call Susan (517.927.8927) to affirm your presence by November 29.

**Tickets for the Christmas Ladies Tea** can be purchased today from Diane Wilson for \$12. We need ladies to host/decorate a table and men to serve as waiters. Sign up on at the table in the foyer. This is an excellent outreach event, Friday, December 8.

**Volunteers needed at the City Rescue Mission** Saturday, Dec 2 to serve the evening meal. Sign up at the table in the foyer.

**Senior Saints Christmas Luncheon** will be December 20, 11:30am at Buddies in Holt. For more information, see Ron Gerard.

**New Address:** Dave Drullinger, 9611 S Francis Rd., Dewitt, MI 48820.

**A Special Business Meeting** is being called for December 3 after the morning service. We will vote on the proposed strategic plan along with a constitutional change regarding quorum. The recommendation is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any questions - please ask an elder or deacon.

**What does the Bible say** about the Israel-Palestinian conflict? Come Sunday, November 26 from 4-5 pm for a discussion. If you are interested in coming, please sign up at the table in the foyer.

**Christmas Caroling** will be held on Sunday, December 10 beginning at 5 pm. Come and participate in brining joy to others.

**Giving for October**

Total Offering	\$29,764.25
2023 Monthly Budget	\$20,247.24

You may give online. Go to: [holtbaptist.org](http://holtbaptist.org) and click on the Online Giving tab.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Beric DeMass	November 19
Susan Elliott	November 20

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Michael & Kellie Mattox	Nov 19
Chris & Starla Ordiway	Nov 20
Bill & Carol Gillam	Nov 21

**Prayer Requests**

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*  
Colossians 4:2

**General Requests & Praise**

- Josh & Carissa Bell in Senegal
- Katherine Moore - residency program
- Those seeking certification with ACBC
- For HBC to grow deeper spiritually and reach out to others
- Proposed Strategic Plan

**Physical Needs**

- Bob Helmuth - cancer, palliative care
- Cecil twins, Susan & Naomi - NICU
- Cherie VanValkenburgh - fatigue
- Cheryl Woodruff (Melissa Hurley's step-mom) - lung cancer
- Myra Fuehring (Kelly Troxell's mom) - having cardio ablation soon
- Ethan Cecil - continued healing and growth
- Jan Jackson - serious health issues, hospitalized
- Joan Allen - painful frozen shoulder
- Josh Bell - back pain management
- Paula Orth (former member) - cancer, surgery Nov 27
- Sherry Back (former member) - palliative care
- Stef Bolthouse (Froman's daughter) - endometriosis, appt Dec 22

**We Give Thanks**

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name." 1 Chronicles 16:34; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Chronicles 29:13

**Prayer For Our Government**

Governor Gretchen Whitmer

**Mission of the Week**

Lansing City Rescue Mission

**Prayer Individual of the Week**

Doretha Jones

**Shut in of the Week**

DeEtta Archambault



**Greeters for November 12**  
Jim & Julie Rizzardi  
Sheila Adcock  
Billie Collins