

Sermon Outline

Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

I. We *all* encounter under-the-sun uncertainties about God

Love or hate (v. 1)

Life doesn't work out the way we expect it to (vv. 11 & 12), which causes us to be uncertain about whether we are loved or hated.

II. We *all* encounter under-the-sun certainties about life

Inside us and around us: evil (v. 2)

Where we all end: death (vv. 2-4)

What we all experience: inequities (vv. 5-6, 11-12)

III. We *all* encounter a measure of under-the-sun satisfaction

All you certainly have is food and drink ... now (v. 7)

All you certainly have is appearance ... now (v. 8)

All you certainly have is family ... now (v. 9)

All you certainly have is work ... now (v. 10)

IV. Christians encounter the cross

Answers the uncertainty of love or hate by giving over-the-sun love under the sun

Exchanges worst of evil/death and inequity to solve our problem

Gives the hope of satisfaction, both *now* with limits and forever in fullness.

Spurgeon's "Now we have the cluster, then we will have the vineyard."