

Life before death: Destiny

Ecclesiastes 8:10 - 9:10

Wisdom deals with the burdens that we must face.

Ecclesiastes 8:1

Life is confusing.

Ecclesiastes 8:10-17; Romans 11:33-36;

Death is real.

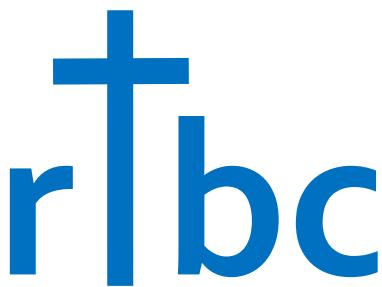
Ecclesiastes 9:1-6

Today is God's gift to you.

Ecclesiastes 9:7-10; Mathew 26:39; Hebrews 12:2-3

Our knowledge is a receding mirage
in an expanding desert of ignorance.

— Will Durant, *The History of Western Civilization*



Considerations for the week

Dilemmas. We think that life should follow the rules as we understand them. It doesn't always do that. Describe ways in which we respond to these difficulties.

Reversals. The teachings of Ecclesiastes acknowledge that moral reversals happen, such as the righteous suffering and the wicked prospering. Why is it important for us to accept this?

In God's hands. Read Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes 9:1 and Paul's in Romans 11:33-36. Explore the possibility that a person can ensure good will come to them by being righteous or wise.

Wisdom. Read all of Ecclesiastes 8, focusing the first and last verses. Consider the benefits of wisdom and its limitations. What does it look like to pursue wisdom while accepting your limits?

All-in. What are you doing halfway? Decide today go all-in. Share your decision with someone and permit them to check on your progress.

Please use these considerations for personal reflection, small group discussions, and with friends and family.

Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

— Ecclesiastes 9:7, ESV

Scripture read today
during worship:

Micah 7:18-19

Chronicles 29:14

Prayer today

Members will be praying for us during the service today and also during the week. Please email us at prayer@rtbchurch.org to let us know how we may pray for you.

Rice Temple Baptist Church

Today's order of service

Prelude, *This Is My Father's World*

Call to worship

Hymn 555, *Hymn, We're Marching to Zion*

Confession and assurance

Hymn, *Come People of the Risen King*

Hymn, *Rejoice*

Hymn, *Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me*

Offertory

Reading and prayer

Hymn, *Work, for the Night Is Coming*

Message

Hymn of response

Serve the Lord with Gladness

Benediction

Postlude, *Lead On, O King Eternal*

Weekly events

Today after benediction, Cookies & Coffee, in parlor

Young adults fellowship, Monday at 6:45pm. Dinner and discussion for those in college or starting careers.

Mom's Day Out, Tuesday and Friday, 9am – 2pm
pre-registration required

Wednesday

Kids' Music Class, 5-6 pm

Dinner, 5:30-6:30 pm. Menu: Chicken with lemon sauce, tater tots, veggies, salad, bread, dessert

Prayer, 6:30 pm in the prayer room

BLAST! Children's Bible study and fun, 6:00 pm

Ladies' international Bible class (Zoom), 6:45 pm

Sermon discussion on Zoom, 7 pm

Choir rehearsal, 7:45 pm

Joy Program, Thursday, 9am-noon, conversational English classes, Bible study, crafts, and handbells

Endurance men's Bible study, Thursday at 6pm
Focus: college-aged / young adult men

Young internationals Bible study, Saturday at 7 pm

Men's Bible study, every-other Saturday at 8 am.
Meets next week, January 24

Sunday morning

Adult Bible study, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:45 am

Children's Church at sermon time

The church office has information on events.

Phone: 713.559.6875 Email: office@rtbchurch.org
The office is open Tuesday - Friday, 9am-3pm

Got the app? You can download our free mobile app by searching for "RTBC" in the Apple or Android store.

Our website is at <https://rtbc.faith>



Church Conference There will be a regular church conference held in person at the church today at 12:45 pm. The agenda is posted. Please contact the church office for information.

Templegram Our weekly newsletter is provided to us by email, usually on Tuesday. If you'd like to receive it, please email us at office@rtbchurch.org.