

Carpe Diem Redeemed, by Pastor Brian Rice

One: The Big Picture of Why Ecclesiastes is so Important for Today

In the message Pastor Brian presents 4-5 of the most significant reasons why Ecclesiastes is helpful, not only for Christians, but also for a wider audience.

Two: heVal

“heVAL” 38x in Ecclesiastes
the single most important word in the book

NIV & New Living Translation: heVAL = meaningless

NASB: heVAL = futility

ESV & the Authorized KJV: heVAL = vanity

The Message: heVAL = smoke (vapor, breath)

Craig Bartholomew: heVAL = enigmatic, mystery, conundrum

I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. Winston Churchill

heVAL is all of life and death and everything in-between as riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.
heVAL is the work of God as riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.
heVAL is YOU yourself, a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

Three: Carpe Diem – Seize the Day

The philosophical origins.

Horace: *Even as we speak envious times flies by. Seize the day and leave as little as possible for tomorrow.*

Seneca: *The wise person plans out every day as if it were his last.*

Marcus Aurelius: *Perfection of character is this – to live each day as if it were your last; without frenzy, without apathy, without pretense.*

Dead Poets Society and poet Robert Herrick:
*Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, Old Time is still a-flying;
And this same flower that smiles today, Tomorrow will be dying.*

Look carefully then how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:15-17, ESV

Carpe Diem has been Hijacked by our culture, it is Redeemed by the Teacher

The SIX Carpe Diem Passages in Ecclesiastes

2:24-26; 3:12, 13, 22; 5:18-20; 8:15; 9:7-10; 11:7-10 (the focus is on the young)

The first five times are almost identical, with 9:7-10 having the most explanation.

All five passages encourage you to (1) eat, (2) drink, and (3) find satisfaction in your toil.

All five passages want you to experience joy, happiness, and satisfaction in life.

All five passages are CRYSTAL CLEAR – all of life, in spite of its ENIGMATIC nature, is the GIFT of GOD to you for your enjoyment.

The Major Carpe Diem Passage - Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

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

Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your heVAL life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might...