Summary

In this message from Ecclesiastes 9 and 10, Pastor introduces the concept of "YOLT" (You Only Live Twice) as a counter-cultural response to the popular phrase "YOLO" (You Only Live Once). Drawing from Solomon's writings, the sermon challenges the idea that life's brevity is a reason to live selfishly or recklessly. Instead, Solomon's perspective is that because our days are limited, every single day is a gift from God that deserves to be lived with intention, gratitude, and purpose. The message covers several practical areas of wisdom: being faithful with what God has placed in your hands rather than envying others, making small decisions that protect what took a long time to build, sharpening your spiritual edge through time with God rather than grinding harder with a dull axe, guarding your words carefully, and not neglecting what matters. Ultimately, the sermon points to Jesus as the one who transforms what death means for believers, offering eternal life and giving this temporary life an eternal dimension. The call is to live fully awake to the life God has given, while keeping eternity in view.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to what You want to speak to each of us personally. Help us to set aside distractions and truly hear Your voice. Give us the courage to be honest with ourselves and with one another as we discuss what it means to live the life You have given us with intention and wisdom. May this time together draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one simple, everyday moment from this past week that you are genuinely grateful for, and why?

Key Verses

- Ecclesiastes 9:2-4
- Ecclesiastes 9:7-10
- Ecclesiastes 9:11-12
- Ecclesiastes 9:10
- Ecclesiastes 10:1

- Ecclesiastes 10:10
- Ecclesiastes 10:18
- Ecclesiastes 10:12-13
- John 3:16
- John 11:25

Questions

- Solomon says that death comes for everyone, righteous and wicked alike. How does that reality change the way you think about how you are spending your time right now?
- The sermon describes each day as a gift from God. What is one area of your life where you have been waiting for things to be "better" before you start truly living and enjoying what God has already given you?
- Pastor talked about the difference between enjoying what God has given us and making a gift into a God. Can you think of a good thing in your life that has started to take the place of God? How do you recognize that shift happening?
- Solomon says to do whatever your hands find to do with all your strength, focusing on what God placed in your hands rather than what He placed in someone else's. What has God specifically placed in your hands, and are you being faithful with it?
- The dead fly illustration warns that small compromises can ruin something valuable that took a long time to build. What is a small habit, attitude, or decision in your life that you have been telling yourself is not a big deal, but that wisdom would say deserves a closer look?
- The sermon describes the image of a dull axe, where we keep swinging harder instead of stopping to sharpen the edge. In what area of your life are you exhausting yourself by pushing harder when God may be calling you to pause and sharpen through prayer, rest, or wise counsel?
- Ecclesiastes 10:18 warns that neglect causes things to fall apart slowly, without any dramatic attack. What is something important in your life, whether a relationship, your spiritual walk, or your health, that you have been neglecting and need to start tending to again?
- The sermon closes with the idea that your temporary life can make an eternal difference. How does keeping eternity in view change the way you think about your daily choices, your words, and the legacy you are building right now?

Life Application

This week, choose one specific area where you have been either neglecting something important, swinging a dull axe, or waiting for life to get better before you engage fully. Take one concrete step to address it. That might mean scheduling time with God to sharpen your edge, having a conversation you have been putting off, putting your phone down to be fully present with someone you love, or simply pausing each morning to say, "Thank You, God. Today is a gift." Come back next week ready to share what you did and what God showed you through it.

Key Takeaways

- Each day is a gift from God. Because our time is limited, every ordinary day deserves to be lived with gratitude, presence, and intention rather than being spent waiting for life to finally begin.
- Be faithful with what God placed in your hands. Instead of comparing your opportunities, gifts, or influence to someone else's, focus on stewarding what God has specifically given you, because that is where your favor and strength lie.
- Small decisions shape big outcomes. Little compromises, habits, and attitudes can contaminate something valuable that took years to build, so wisdom means taking the small things seriously before they become large problems.
- Sharpen the axe rather than just swinging harder. When life feels like it is requiring more and more from you, the answer is often not more effort but a sharper edge gained through time with God, wise counsel, and intentional rest.
- You only live twice. This earthly life is temporary, but Jesus offers eternal life to everyone who believes in Him. Living with eternity in view changes how we measure success, use our words, make decisions, and invest our days.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gift of today and for the time we have shared together in this discussion. We ask that the truths from Your Word would not just stay in this room but would take root in our hearts and change the way we live this week. Help us to be present, grateful, and faithful with everything You have placed in our hands. Where we have been swinging a dull axe, give us the wisdom and humility to stop and sharpen. Where we have been neglecting what matters, give us the courage to tend to it. And above all, remind us that this life points toward something far greater. May our temporary lives make an eternal

difference for the people around us. We trust You with the outcomes we cannot control, and we choose to give You our best and release the rest. In Jesus' name, amen.