

The Tanner St Church of Christ meets each Lord's Day beginning with Bible classes at **9:30 AM**. We continue with our worship at **10:20 AM** and again at **5:00 PM**. We also meet each Wednesday evening at **7:00 PM** for Bible study and worship. Our meeting place is located about ¾ of a mile from I30 at 1512 Tanner St in Malvern, AR.

If you have questions about what we believe and teach, please visit our website, tannerst.com to listen to sermons or read past articles from our bulletin. Or you can contact us and we will be glad to find a convenient time to study with you.

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Consider: James 1:21 Needed News

Bill Venable had another doctor visit last week and was told it will take some time for him to fully recover. **Betty Ragsdale** was not feeling well this past Wednesday but is doing much better now.

The **Simpson Family** is out of town this weekend.

Dolline Fain, Conard Harris, Joyce Venable, John Ragsdale and others deal with ongoing health issues every day.

Each of us should take it upon ourselves to speak with our brethren regarding the various health issues and problems that are constants in many of our families. We need to keep one another in our prayers as well as other family members who are dealing with health issues.

Gospel Meeting, This Week, Terry Sumerlin

Seeking His Righteousness

"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.." Matthew 6:33

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Solomon Had It All

Kent Heaton

But He Did Not Want It

It would seem to most people that a wealthy man would find all the happiness in the world. If he possessed great amounts of wealth, there would be nothing that a person could not do to find happiness. Each day could be spent in the pursuit of pleasure and fun. There would be little if anything that would not be possible for a man of great wealth. He could travel the world on a whim, buy what he wanted, go where he desired, enjoy whatever his heart sought after and be filled with satisfaction as a cup flowing over. So why was Solomon not happy?

Of all the people in the world who had everything man could enjoy, Solomon possessed more. The Queen of Sheba came and declared, "Indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard." (1 Kings 10:7) The irony of his plight was that he wrote about how unhappy all those things were to him.

"The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 'Vanity of vanities,' says the Preacher; 'Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.'" (Ecclesiastes 1:1-2) The book of Ecclesiastes is an examination of what life is made of and what life is not made of. Solomon tried pleasure and found it

wanting. He sought after wisdom and found it full of grief. All the riches imagined by man were gained by the King and yet it came to nothing. Fame was fleeting for who would remember from generation to generation?

Throughout the book he investigates the many sides of life and finds them all to be lacking. There is injustice in the world along with tragedy. Life is filled with labor and toil and seeking after the days bread. Death comes as quickly as birth. Men fight with men and laughter is useless. He does find value in wisdom that is used in a practical manner. There are lessons to be learned in death and death will come to all. The conclusion drawn by Solomon is the heart of the book. The reader would think that Solomon had found some great secret to life that would make the riches worth their gold. Could there be a full measure of pleasure that would satisfy all men? Would fame last? What is the conclusion Solomon?

"And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright - words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well driven nails, given by one Shepherd. And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is not end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret things, whether it is good or whether it is evil."

(Ecclesiastes 12:9-14)

Simple. Direct. Clear. Easy to understand. Life is not about the accumulation of stuff nor the pursuit of pleasure but living in such a way that death is a blessing of removing a body of flesh for the eternal body of glory. Life is about God! Life is about the will of God! Life is about good and evil! Life is about choices we make that have everlasting consequences. Life here is about life there. Solomon learned that in the midst of having it all.

We work so hard in our lives for the gain of this world. Our labors are tireless and our toil is unending. Plans are made for more stuff and our desires are filled with our wants. And then we die. What good will our fame, fortune, pleasure and wisdom do for us then? *"And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."* **(Hebrews 9:27)** Listen to someone who had it all and said that life is more than raiment. The wise man says: *"Fear God."*

(Having just finished reading Ecclesiastes as part of my daily Bible reading last week this article seemed timely. Also, this is the time of year, like it or not, when we must take a look at what we have and how we prospered over the last year. It is a good time for us to consider all the blessings God has bestowed on us.

It is also a good time to really focus on what is most important to us. What do we really need? Should I do without some of "my stuff" so that I might put more focus on serving God? Is there anything getting between me and God. What about the time I spend to satisfy my wants and needs? Are all the things I consider 'needs' really needed for me to do what God has ask of me? The Preacher of old tried it all and determined that nothing mattered except pleasing God. What have you determined? DLH)