

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? Matthew 16:26

Store In My Heart

2Thessalonians 3:13

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

In this second letter, written shortly after the first Paul encourages these brethren by speaking of his boasting about their faith and steadfastness through persecution. He reminds them that God will deal with those who persecute His own. He also deals with a problem they had regarding the "day of the Lord." Some were saying the Lord had already returned and this was disturbing many of the brethren and causing fear. There were others among them who were not working. Paul warns that the Lord's return is still in the future and all must work to supply things needed. He even commands that they separate from those who do not heed his teaching in these matters. Our verse above contains his exhortation to keep doing good.



Solomon Had It All But He Did Not Want It!

Kent Heaton

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.*" (1Kings 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

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is sore following a fall last week.

Vickie McNeas is having sinus issues and is achy.

Jimmy Gray is still dealing with sore throat and coughing.

Dan's Mom, Dottie, is in CCU in Tupelo, MS.

John & Betty Ragsdale are in Jonesboro this weekend.

Theresa and John LaValla are in Mississippi.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

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."

(Most of us received new, at least to us, things over the past week. While we are certainly appreciative of the gifts received, did we really need any of them? Were they special in any way? No matter what or how much we have, it cannot reach the value of belonging to God and being ready to meet him at the end of life. Make certain that you place value on the proper things so that you will be ready.)

(A Note about Mom: Most know Mom intubated for Thursday & much of Friday following a heart episode Wednesday evening. She had a 'hiccup' (Dad's word) with her heart Friday night, and was on a CPAP for about 4 hours. They will do a heart cath on Monday possibly followed by ablation. JoBeth & I plan to leave after services tonight and return Tuesday.)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!