

SUBJECT : Finding Meaning To Every Day Life

BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:
Ecclesiastes 1:1-9, John 20:19-23

BIBLE TRUTH:

To minister in the temple or to minister in the marketplace requires the same anointing.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 20:19

Lesson Aim:

To help students to real spiritual rest through union with Christ. In our attempt to divide our lives into secular and spiritual, we have been lead to believe that secular work is non-spiritual and the anointing operates only under certain situations. 1Corn 12:4-7

Introduction

- Ecclesiastes is not a Hebrew word at all. It comes from the Greek ecclesia which in the N.T is translated church or assembly. It carries the idea of a preacher or debater speaking to an assembly of people.
- Solomon is named as the author. Certainly he was known for his wisdom as well as for his wealth and enjoyment of pleasures.
- The issue: Is Life really worth living?
- Solomon looks at life with its seemingly mundane daily routines, and wonders if the endless toil of existence is worth it.
- A man toils all his life, then he dies and somebody less worthy than himself inherits all his wealth and blessings and waste them.
- Solomon comes to the conclusion that the best thing a man can do **under the sun** is to enjoy the blessings of God today, fear God, and keep his Commandment. Ecc. 12:13-14
- One thing Solomon overlooked in his conclusion is that his blessings were not just for him. According to his own word a wise man will leave an inheritance to his children's children. This would require a inter-generational wealth transfer. Prov.13:22.
- God was not just interested in getting a blessing to Abraham as he was of getting the blessing through Abraham. Gen 12:1-3
- If our lives are to have meaning that meaning must be found in the word of God. Matt 4:4

The Preacher

- Eccles. 1:1-9 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. [2] Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. [3] What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?
- Solomon describes himself here as the preacher. Many students of this book have taken these writings as a collection of worldly wisdom. To identify himself as the preacher would be an off way to present himself if he were setting forth mere worldly wisdom.
- Since he was the son of David and the ruler over the people of God, his readers would have understood him to be talking about the truth.
- As rich and wise as he was, Solomon would be the most likeliest person to think this earth contained everything that could be desired. But that is not what he taught. Instead he declared that everything is vanity full of empty wind, meaningless.
- Solomon asked the question, what profit hath a man of all his labor which he taketh under the sun?
- The answer to that question can be found in the N.T. 1Cor 15:58
- A person works hard all his life; but what in earthly terms, does he really have to show for it at the end of the day? Under the **SUN** nothing, under the **SON** everything. Col. 3:17, 23-24
- In our attempt to divide our lives into secular and spiritual, we have been led to believe that secular work is non-spiritual and the anointing operates only under certain situations., Eph. 6:5-8

What's Happening

- [4] One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. [5] The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. [6] The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. [7] All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.
- One generation dies, and then another comes along to take its place. But nothing really changes. The earth for its part, doesn't come and go but seems to abide for ever. We know now from the NT that the earth, as we know it, will not remain forever. Luke 21:25, Rev. 21:1
- Solomon proceeded to cite phenomena from nature that demonstrate the cyclical nature of life. The sun rises and sets just to haste to rise again and the regularity of its appearance lends order to our lives.
- The wind may seem to be aimless, but it is not. The wind goeth and turneth about according to natural laws. It has its circuits, and they seem to be repetitive. The river run into the sea, yet the sea level remains the same. Water continues to go back into the sky fall to the ground again, make rivers , and run into the sea. Again, the process seems repetitive.

Never Satisfied

- [8] All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. [9] The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.
- We can almost hear the weariness in Solomon's words as he considered the world of nature and concluded that all things are full of labor, but nothing changes. The world is awe-inspiring, but without God all is meaningless. Only God can provide direction and purpose to life. Gal. 4:4-7
- These courses of nature take place independently of man's presence. So Solomon was also making the point that we are all finite temporary creatures and not that essential in this drama being played out in nature. The world does not revolve around us or does it? Heb 2:6-17, 7:25
- Adding to the weariness of life is the fact that we are never satisfied with what we have or experience. A life apart from God is meaningless. There is a void in every man's heart that only God can fill. Rev. 3:20
- Eating and drinking and procreation are necessary for survival. But satisfying these needs never ends and never meet our deeper spiritual hunger. John 4:9-14, Acts 17:21-30, Matt. 4:4

God Bless America

- John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.
- There are countries where believer must meet in secret for fear of the government. We thank God we don't have to live like that in America. Are religious freedom in this country are protected by the 1st Amendment of the Constitution. Out of all the faults America has, It is still the greatest country in the world. God blesses America for four reason according to scripture:
- Whenever there is a catastrophe in the world America is the first and biggest contributor. Luke 6:38.
- America loves her enemies. We helped both Germany and Japan to rebuild their country after World War I, II. Matt. 5:43-48
- America has sent more missionaries throughout the world with the gospel than any other nation. Mat. 28:19-20.
- America has a history of friendship with Israel. Gen. 12:1-3.
- The prayer movement in America today is setting the stage for revival according to 2Chronicle 7:14
- Back to the lesson. The disciples were hiding for fear of the Jews. There was the imminent danger they could be arrested or executed as revolutionaries just as Jesus had been. Suddenly, Jesus was standing in their midst and spoke peace to them. Eph. 2:13-19, John 14:27

Talk About Your Wounds

- [20] And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.
- Notice the disciples were not impressed with the miracle of Jesus coming through the walls to suddenly appear to them. They were not impressed with his words of peace. Luke 24:36-38
- When they saw his wounds they understood and knew that they had seen the Lord. People many times are not as impressed with our victorious testimonies as they are impressed with our struggles, failures and wounds, we have overcome in life.
- He showed them His wounds. Then they knew for sure...that they were not seeing a vision or a spirit. The effect upon the disciples was unbelievable joy and gladness. Luke 24:41.
- They now knew what Jesus meant when he said I am the way the truth and the life. His words were *literally* true. He had meant exactly what He had said and said exactly what he meant. The disciples had just spiritualized His words and twisted them to mean what they had wanted them to mean.
- When He had said that He was going to die, He meant He was going to die. When He had said that He was going to arise, He meant He was going to arise. Luke 24:44-53

Ministry Of Reconciliation

- [21] Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.
- There is one qualification for being commissioned: receiving, possessing, and knowing the peace of Christ. To have the peace of God we must be born again. John 3:3-7, Rom. 14:17
- Unless a person has been reconciled to God *by Christ*, unless he has really made peace with God, he cannot represent God before the world. Rom 5:1-8
- There is the great link between the mission of Christ and the disciple. The disciple is sent on the very *same* mission as Christ. God sent Christ on a specific mission. Christ sends His disciple on the very same mission. What is the mission? John 3:16-17, 10:10, 12:47, 18:37.
- Jesus said all power is given unto me in heaven and earth, Go ye therefore and teach all nations. Matt, 28:18-20
- Every believer has been given the ministry of reconciliation. 2Corn. 5:17-21
- Born again believers are the only qualified representatives God has in the earth to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. John 15:16
- We have an awesome responsibility. No one will do it for us. We must be about our Fathers business. Act 10:1-6, Acts 9:1-6

The Second Breath

- [22] And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**
- Christ had just commissioned His disciples. He now gave them the power to carry out His orders.
- Every time you see the Holy Spirit in the Bible in reference to man, it is always associated with the word **receive**. Within this word is the revelation of what the Holy Spirit is in relation to you.
- Notice how the word receive is spelled: It begins with a prefix. What is the prefix? **Re**..... Take away the prefix and what do you have?.... **ceive**. **Re** is not a word it's a prefix and in grammatical terms a prefix is added to a word to change its meaning. So the word now is **ceive**. We don't use this word **ceive** anymore, it is an old English word. We use another word for the word **ceive**.
- The word **ceive** means to have or possess it now. So to add the prefix.. **Re**... to **receive** means to have or possess again. The Bible never says to us, **ceive** the Holy Spirit. Why? Because God **ceived** us the Holy Spirit in Genesis. Gen. 2:7-8
- God the Father breathed in man the first time and Jesus the Son of God breath on man the second time. John 20:22
- The most important thing man lost when he sinned in the garden was the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to restore it back. John 3:3

Ministry Of Reconciliation

- [23] Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.
- In the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus says the believer can remit sin (remit means to pardon) and whosoever sins you retain (retain means to hold to or keep). This is a powerful word. Have believers been given this kind of power to forgive sin? Matt. 16:17-19, Mark 2:5-12
- John 20:23 is a disputed passage. There are two things we can know for sure about its meaning. No man can forgive another man's sins. Believers *can proclaim* that a man's sins are forgiven *if he receives Christ*. Believers can also proclaim that a man's sins are not forgiven if he does not receive Christ. John 1:12, John 3:18
- There is only one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus. 1Tim. 2:5-6
- Only Christ can forgive and judge sins. John 5:22, 5:27, 16:8
- Only representatives of Christ (believers) can say that a man is forgiven by Christ or not forgiven by Christ.
- The bases of forgiveness is not our verbal confessions or our admittance of a sinful act. Without the shedding of blood there would be no remittance of sins. Heb. 9:27
- What makes forgiveness available is the precious blood of Jesus. What can wash away my sin? nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? nothing but the blood of Jesus. 1Pet 1:18

The Goal Is To Get Heaven In You

- John 14:15-19 If ye love me, keep my commandments. [16] And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [17] Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; **for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**
- The goal of God is not to get you to heaven, but, to get heaven in you. This mindset will require a paradigm shift for most Christians.
- Christianity is the only religion in the world were every member possess the spirit of its founder. Which makes life worth living. An empowers us to fulfill our purpose and destiny in life. Act 1:8

Mans Purpose

- A fish out of water will soon die. Why? because a fish out of water cannot fulfill its purpose for being and that is to swim. A bird in cage becomes depressed. Why? Because a bird in a cage cannot fulfill its purpose for being, and that is to fly. What's the point? The key to man's fulfillment is for man to do what God purposed him to do. The word **purpose** mean the original intent for the creation of a thing.
- What was God's original intent or purpose for mankind. Gen 1:26-28
- If we are not fulfilling our purpose or dominating our environment, we are like a bird in a cage or a fish out of water.
- That's why when we are in financial bondage we are depressed because the borrower is a slave to the lender. Prov. 22:7
- That's why when you are sick you are miserable because you were not created to be dominated with sickness. Gen. 1:26
- So Gods original intent was not for man to be in heaven or be dominated by his environment. God wanted man to be fruitful and dominate the earth realm. However, Adam sinned and lost the **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit gave him the ability to dominate his environment.
- So, what did God do? God makes a promise. The promise is that the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent. Gen. 3:15
- God is saying I will restore the power to dominate back to mankind to reclaim everything Adam lost in the Garden. Col. 1:20