

## Four Things To Make Us Content & Happy

by Wayne Goff

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### FEAR GOD & KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

#### ECCLESIASTES 12:13

*"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all" [NKJV]*

Solomon is considered to be the wisest man who ever lived on the earth, save Jesus Christ Himself. He had the privilege, the power, and the resources to "examine" the various ways in which man lives his life. He concluded that to be truly happy and fulfilled in life, one must respect and obey God.

In Ecclesiastes 2, Solomon proposed a test for himself. *"I said in my heart, 'Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure'; but surely, this also was vanity. I said of laughter – 'Madness!'; and of mirth, 'What does it accomplish?'"* (vv. 1-2). While there may be *temporary joy* and pleasure in being silly and crazy, this is **not** the meaning of life.

Solomon continued on with the various tests of life (1) wine, women & song (v. 3); (2) earthly possessions (vv. 4-7); (3) wealth (vv. 8-9); (4) unrestrained pleasure (v. 10). His conclusion about all of these things was the same: *"...And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun"* (v. 11). In other words, there is no lasting pleasure or profit to earthly pursuits.

Solomon's conclusion was that *"wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness"* (v. 13). But *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, ..."* (Proverbs 1:7). So the **end** of the book of Ecclesiastes is the **end result** of Solomon's search for meaning in life: fear God and keep His commandments!

### SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD & HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

#### MATTHEW 6:33

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

Isn't one's life all about setting the proper priorities and then accomplishing them? Jesus Christ Himself said that **the first priority in life** is to prepare for eternity! A.T. Robertson explained: "Here he places the Kingdom of God and his righteousness before temporal blessings (food and clothing)." [*Word Pictures in the NT, vol. I:59*].

Job had it right when he said: *"I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food"* (Job 23:12). Do you have your priorities right?

### BE FREE FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY

#### 1 TIMOTHY 6:10

*"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*

Think of how much death, sorrow, and pain **greed** and **covetousness** have caused in this world! I like the King James Version when it refers to the uncontrolled desire for dishonorable gain as *"filthy lucre."* Covetousness is a form of idolatry (Col. 3:5), and indeed "money" is the god of many in this world! They have sold their souls to the Devil, but they are not happy, content and fulfilled! Jesus said a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesses (Lk. 12:15). I fear that we do not believe Him.

### WAIT ON THE LORD - TRUST IN HIM

#### ISAIAH 40:31

*"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."*

How difficult it is to **ultimately trust** in the Lord for life's decisions, thoughts and actions! We *love* God, we *trust* God, but **we want to be in control!** Dear reader, it doesn't work that way. Learn to trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean on His ways. His Word carries the answer to everything in life. *"And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You"* (Psalm 9:10).

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