

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS – Eternity Matters

June 8-9, 2024

“Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die” – **Joe Louis**

Ecclesiastes 1:18 (NIV) – “For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief”.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3 (NIV) – “I said to myself, ‘Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good’. But that also proved to be meaningless. ‘Laughter’, I said, ‘is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?’ I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly – my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives”.

“Does God guarantee the absence of struggle and the abundance of strength? Not in this life. But He does pledge to re-weave your pain for a higher purpose” – **Max Lucado**

Romans 8:28 (NIV) – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose”.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV) – “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal”.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-8 (NIV) – “I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well – the delights of a man’s heart”.

1 Kings 11:1-4 (NIV) – “King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh’s daughter – Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites. They were from nations about which the Lord had

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told the Israelites, ‘You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods’. Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been”.

Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 (NIV) – “I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun”.

Ecclesiastes 2:14-16 (NKJV) – “The wise man’s eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. Yet, I myself perceived that the same event happens to them all. So I said in my heart, ‘As it happens to the fool, it also happens to me, and why was I then more wise?’ Then I said in my heart, ‘This also is vanity’. For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool!”

Ecclesiastes 2:17-21 (NIV) – “So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun is grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet, they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge, and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune”.

Philippians 1:21 (NIV) - “For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and

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steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”.

“Everything is vanity. To live under the sun is to decide at last that the natural thing to do is to take what comes. Materialism necessarily becomes fatalism” – ***G. Campbell Morgan***

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 (NIV) – “A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To the person who pleases Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind”.