

ETERNITY IN THE HEART

Ecclesiastes...The Search for a Christian Worldview



“OCCUPIED WITH GLADNESS” (*Ecclesiastes 5*)

“There is a burden of care in getting riches; fear in keeping them; temptation in using them; guilt in abusing them; sorrow in losing them; and a burden of account at last to be given concerning them.”
—Matthew Henry

I. “STAND IN AWE” (Ecclesiastes 5:1-7)

- A. The essence of worship (v. 1) [note Psalm 46:10]
- B. “The sacrifice of fools”...rash vows and promises*.
- C. Discreet conversation with God (vs. 2-7)

“The activities we do for God are secondary. God is looking for people who long for communication with him.”
—Erwin W. Lutzer

II. MEANINGLESS RICHES (5:8-17)

- A. The futility of material possessions (vs. 8-10)
- B. The feast of the temporal (vs. 11, 12)
- C. The frustration of materialism (vs. 13-17)

“Money will buy a bed but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; a house but not a home; medicine but not health; luxuries but not culture; amusements but not happiness; religion but not salvation--a passport to everywhere but heaven.”
—Voice in the Wilderness



Solomon's Temple

III. SATISFYING WORK (5:18-20)

- A. Normal temporal fulfillment (v. 18)
- B. God-given blessing in time (v. 19)
- C. Enjoyment through enabling (v. 20)

“Life is not worth living, apart from redemption.”—Oswald Chambers

FOR REFLECTION...

1. How do Solomon's comments in this chapter correlate with his theme of “chasing after the wind”?
2. Do you feel that his evaluations are a denunciation of temporal pleasure? Why?
3. How may a Christian best come to terms with balancing material and spiritual issues in life?

***VOWS** Voluntary promises which, when once made, were to be kept if the thing vowed was right. They were made under a great variety of circumstances (Genesis 28: 18-22; Leviticus 7:16; Numbers 30:2-13; Deuteronomy 23:18; Judges 11:30, 39; 1 Samuel 1:11; Jonah 1:16; Acts 18:18; 21:23).