

VANITY

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:11

We are living in an age ^{a transition age} which is a very fast age. It is an age of discovery, and scientific accomplishment. Science is making great progress in the ~~fight~~ ^{fight} against ^{knowledge is being} ~~doubled every 10 yrs~~ disease. Knowledge is on the increase. Machines which were beyond human comprehension sixty years ago are now commonplace. And 75% of yet, God's word says that all is vanity. ^{scientific knowledge}

60 years have brought us from horse & buggy to bank of interplanetary travel from manual labor to automation

Solomon was a wise and knowledgeable man. ^{scientific knowledge} He recognized that all was vanity and vexation ^{of the Spirit} of the Spirit. Here are just a few things that he recognized as vain.

I. Pleasure—ends in emptiness, degradation, Death

A. The prodigal son

1. ...took his journey into a far country and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

Luke 15:13

2. Steps to degradation

- a. Selfish desire
- b. Freedom from self discipline
- c. Pleasure seeking
- d. Poverty

B. The antediluvian civilization

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, ~~until~~ until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away....

Matthew 24:38-39

LYLE NOAH

II. Riches and great works ~~do~~ give no satisfaction

A. Solomon

1. His wealth

a. \$19,370,610 annual income in gold alone. (646 talents)

b. Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the spice merchants and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country

I Kings 10:15

c. His bodyguards carried shields of beaten gold.

d. Throne was of ivory overlaid with gold.

e. His navy plied foreign coasts for gold silver and ivory.

2. His great works

1. The temple—seven years in building

2. His palace—13 years in building

3. The fenced cities

B. 3. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:11

B. Richard III of England

1. By treachery obtained the throne

2. His treachery aroused the people

3. In battle, his forces were defeated and he was trapped in the field.

4. His kingdom became vanity, for he cried, "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse."

C. For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

Mark 8:36

D. The fellew (John & Zander)

Then what may we find in this world which is not vanity?

The scripture says:

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

I John 2:17

...A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 12:15

III. Keep God's commandments

Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

A. God gives a purpose in life

1. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

I John 1:9

2. The apostles purpose in life

Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature

Mark 16:15

B. The apostles purpose--to preach the gospel

1. They were prepared--the Holy Spirit
2. They were Determined
3. They were dedicated

Eye 47

- talks about various degrees of spiritual life
ankle deep - barely in
knee deep - hindered by religion
waist deep - saved
water to swim in - worn up by the spirit