

How Can I Be Truly Happy?

January 28, 2018

Ecclesiastes 2: 1 – 3:14; Matthew 6: 25-34

“Greed, for lack of a better word, is good.” – Gordon Gekko

Greed is not only the desire for more material possessions, but the desire to use them to wring meaning out of life.

1) Greed for Possessions (2:1-10)

Solomon seeks meaning in material possessions:

Drunkness, assets, zip code & money.

The Verdicts:

Madness and Folly

Enjoyment?

Celebration. Revelry

2) Greed for Knowledge (2:12b-17)

Solomon seeks meaning in knowledge and academia:

Knowledge is superior to foolishness

Skill and aptitude leads to a better life

The Verdicts:

1) Both of them die

2) The Wise and the Fool are forgotten

3) Greed for Work (2:10-12a, 18-23)

Solomon seeks fortune building to find happiness:

1) Builds and acquires lots of wealth (hard work)

2) Gaining legacy, business, capital

The Verdicts:

He leaves it to someone who has not worked for it

It produces a workaholic life of misery

True Happiness (Solomon):

Enjoy the life God has given you (2:24-26)

Enjoy the Seasons of Life (3:1-8)

Enjoy God’s gifts and Provisions (3:9-15)

Jesus’ Expansion: (Matthew 6:25-34)

Don’t Worry

Trust God

Be Content

SEEK GOD’S KINGDOM FIRST!

A Fulfilled and Happy Life Comes from a Life Centered on Christ, a Life that is Other-Focused, and a Life that is Content.

Bible Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,

²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own.