



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 13, 2017

Heart to Heart...

Solomon was a man who had it all! Riches beyond anyone and wisdom from God that no man could touch (I Kings 4:29-34). People traveled from great distances to gain insight to life and justice. Yet in all this, his heart moved away from the living God who blessed him to serve foreign gods (I Kings 11:1-8). God had warned him and Solomon ignored the warnings.

Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes and in this writing, you can see his search for the meaning of life and happiness. He was alienated from Jehovah God and now searching for the meaning of life without fellowship with God. The answers he sought can be formed in one question: *“What profit is a life without God?”*

Solomon believed his great wisdom would lead him to happiness and fulfillment (Ecclesiastes 1:12-18). He came to a conclusion: ***“...I realized that this also is striving after the wind. Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain.”*** (Ecclesiastes 1:17-18)

Solomon began searching for happiness and contentment in worldly pleasures (Ecclesiastes 2:1-10). He found pleasure but it solved nothing and in laughter it was empty and unfulfilling. He sought to stimulate his body through wine while keeping his senses, not drunkenness and there was nothing of value in that. He enlarged his home, making beautiful parks, ponds and trees unlimited. Adding to that his bank account of gold and silver. His conclusion? ***“...behold all was vanity and striving after the wind and there was no profit under the sun.”*** (Ecclesiastes 2:11)

Solomon’s search continued for answers to fulfillment and happiness and turned to working with his hands. He found this too void of the results he was seeking (Ecclesiastes 3:9-11). This led him to contemplating how oppression was all around him and how little comfort people were finding. From this he concluded that one is better off dead than alive! (Ecclesiastes 4:1-3)

Solomon ended up at the end of his search as an old man. He had spent a lifetime, many years separated from God, searching for true happiness and fulfillment in everything this world had to offer. He experienced it all first hand and through it rationalized his own life coming to one final conclusion: ***“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”*** (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

This search by Solomon is the same search many are on today. People are miserable, unhappy looking for answers here and there. Some blame others for their miserable existence. We might ought to wake up and help others wake up and listen to the conclusion of Solomon realizing the only way to life and happiness is found in walking with God! When we start substituting things of the world and our own mind-set to work things out, we are doomed to fail. It becomes a downward spiral and the

longer you walk in this thinking, the more you will decline. Jesus spoke it plainly: “***...I came that they might have life and have it abundantly.***” (John 10:10) The only question is do we believe it with all our heart? Think about it!!!

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