

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

ECCLESIASTES 2:3

INTRODUCTION:

1. There are things that should be important, and there are things that should not be important. (Matt. 6.33; 1 Tim. 6.9; 1 John 2.15)
2. The book of Ecclesiastes is a negative book about Solomon searching for what is important in life. (Ecc. 2.3,17)
3. From the example of Solomon, we can learn what ought to be important to us to bring meaning to our lives.

I. WHAT IS YOUR LIFE'S GOAL?

- A. Solomon did not have the right goal.
 1. The goal of Solomon pursued to find meaning in life was happiness. (Ecc. 2.1,2,10)
 2. The result of pursuing the wrong goal was a life that was empty and without meaning. (Ecc. 2.1,2)
- B. What is to be our goal in life?
 1. **1 CORINTHIANS 10.31:** *“Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* Life is about bringing glory to God.
 2. Solomon came to the same conclusion. (Ecc. 12.13)

II. WHAT IS YOUR LIFE'S GUIDE?

- A. Solomon did not follow the right guide.
 1. The guide that Solomon followed was his heart and what made him feel good. (Ecc. 2.1,3,10)
 2. As the king of Israel, Solomon was given the proper guide to follow. (Deut. 17.18,19)
- B. What is to be our guide in life? (2 Tim. 3.16,17)

III. WHAT STEPS SHOULD YOU TAKE?

- A. Solomon took the wrong steps to achieve his goal.
 1. He sought to obtain women. (Ecc. 2.1)
 2. He sought to obtain wine. (Ecc. 2.3; cf. Prov. 23.9,10)
 3. He sought to obtain wealth. (Ecc. 2.5-8)
 4. He sought to obtain wisdom. (Ecc. 2.12,15)
- B. What steps are to take to achieve our goal?
 1. We are to seek out unity. (Rom. 15.5,6)
 2. We are to seek out purity. (1 Cor. 6.19,20)
 3. We are to seek out fidelity. (1 Pet. 4.16; cf. 3.15)

CONCLUSION: Jesus knew what was important. What about you?

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: info@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

May 30, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

HAVE YOU READ?

Have you read any good books lately? What kind of books do you like to read? Do you enjoy a good mystery? Did you know that the Bible is a book of mystery? (Eph. 3.3). Do you enjoy self-help books? You will not find a book more helpful than the Bible (2 Tim. 3.16,17). Do you enjoy romance novels? Where else will you read about the romantic tragedy of Hosea and Gomer (Hos. 1.2)?

Whatever your preferred genre, the Bible has it all. Intrigue, adventure, horror, action, betrayal, and every word of it is true. These things actually happened. But consider five other ways that the Bible is described.

The Bible is the “word of promise” (Rom. 9.9). All through the Bible we read of the promise of a heavenly home. In Titus 1.2, Paul writes about *“eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”* This is God’s word. In this book written by God who cannot lie, we are promised eternal life on the condition of our faith in Jesus and obedience to this same word.

The Bible is the “word of faith” (Rom. 10.8). How can I come to believe in God? How can I reach the point of believing in Jesus with a faith strong enough to be compelled to follow His teachings? The word of God produces faith (cf. John 20.30,31). A few verses later, Paul writes that *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom. 10.17). [continued inside]

HOW TO RESPOND TO HURTFUL WORDS

MARK 2:6,7

INTRODUCTION:

1. We have all been the victim of hurtful words. How are we to respond to those who say such things?
2. In Mark 2, Jesus comes to His own city where He is met by the multitudes. (Mark 2.1,2)
3. Jesus does something that draws the criticism from the scribes. From this account, we learn how to respond to hurtful words.

I. UNFOLDING THE ACCOUNT

- A. There is one who is paralyzed.
 1. **MARK 2.3:** *“Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.”*
 2. What did Jesus do for this man? (Mark 2.5,11,12)
- B. There are those who criticized.
 1. **MARK 2.6:** *“reasoning in their hearts.”* (cf. Luke 7.39)
 2. **MARK 2.7:** *“Why does this Man speak blasphemies?”*
 3. How did Jesus respond? (Mark 2.8-10)
- C. There are those who were mesmerized.
 1. **MARK 2.12:** *“They were all amazed”*
 2. Amazed carries the idea of being beside yourself.
- D. There is One who is glorified.
 1. **MARK 2.12:** *“glorified God.”*
 2. Even when I am hurt, I can respond in a way that brings glory to God. (1 Cor. 10.31)

II. HOW TO RESPOND TO HURTFUL WORDS

- A. Expect it.
 1. Jesus was constantly subjected to criticism. (Mark 2.6,7)
 2. If it happened to Jesus, it will happen to us. (John 15.20)
- B. Inspect it.
 1. Jesus thought about what they said. (Mark 2.8)
 2. What did these scribes actually say? (Mark 2.7)
 3. When words are said that are hurtful, stop and think about what was said. It may be helpful. (James 1.19)
- C. Correct it.
 1. Ask questions which challenge the validity. (Luke 10.26)
 2. Prove that what is said is not true. (Mark 2.10,11)

CONCLUSION: Following Jesus' example will leave people amazed.

HAVE YOU READ?

The Bible is the “word of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5.19). Five times in verses 18-20, you will find some form of the word “reconciliation.” We are told that God reconciles us through Jesus in verse 18. The apostles had the ministry of reconciliation in verse 18. God sent Jesus to reconcile the world to Himself in verse 19. God gave the apostles the word of reconciliation in verse 19. Then in verse 20, the apostles were pleading his readers to be reconciled to God. The word “reconciliation” carries the idea of making a change. Our sins have severed our relationship with God. To be reconciled is to have our relationship with God changed from being at enmity with Him to having God’s favor. The apostles were given the task of helping people become reconciled to God by preaching the word of God. It is the Bible that tells us how to be reconciled.

The Bible is the “word of truth” (2 Cor. 6.7). What is truth? That’s the question that Pilate rhetorically asked of Jesus (John 18.38). So many view truth as relative. What is true to you may not be true to me. Yet the Bible is truth. Paul wrote about those who *“obeyed the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation”* (Eph. 1.13). It is essential that I understand the truth so that I can be reconciled with God by having a faith that obeys God to have the hope of eternal life which God promises to all who obey Him.

The Bible is the *“word of life”* (Phil. 2.16). It is sin which separates us from God (Isa. 59.2). The Bible word for separation is death. We have died spiritually because of our sin. Through the teachings of scripture, we can learn how to have our sins washed away. With sin no longer separating us from God, we are made alive again spiritually (Eph. 2.1). Think about what the disciples said to Jesus after the rest of crowd *“went back and walked with Him no more”* (John 6.66). They said, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life”* (John 6.68).

There is no other book that comes from God revealing the mind of God and guiding us in the ways of God. There is no other book that bring to our lives a sense of peace and happiness that is unknown to the rest of the world. Only the Bible can give us hope. Read it and be inspired. Study it and live a better life. Live it and live a life where the mistakes of the past have been erased and the prospect of the future is bright. Be like Ezra who *“prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel”* (Ezra 7.10).