

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, John 8.

Ecclesiastes 1:2 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher.

"Vanity of vanities! All [that is done without God's guidance] is vanity [futile, meaningless--a wisp of smoke, a vapor that vanishes, merely chasing the wind]." (AMP)

Wow, what an uplifting message, right? Last night, we began our study from the Book of Ecclesiastes. From the outset, I mentioned that if the group was looking for an uplifting, inspiring, happy sermon from "the Preacher," they were going to be disappointed.

The Preacher says, "Life without God is, Vanity - "Nothing, useless, meaningless, a wisp of vapor, a puff of wind, a mere breath, futility, emptiness, to no effect." All the above describe that one word. That way of living.

When I think of the word "vanity," the magazine "Vanity Fair" comes to mind and how many "Superstars" live such a meaningless and shallow life. How many are concerned for awards, accolades, and their "accomplishments" only to see many of their trophies go up in smoke.

A life lived "Under the sun" is a life lived apart from the Son of God. A life lived without an eternal perspective. A life lived in the pursuit of passion and pleasure and not seeking the presence, power, or a perspective with God at the center.

Solomon searched the world over looking for true meaning but only found emptiness. No amount of worldly passion or pleasure, power or prestige, architecture, or accomplishments gave meaning to life. No wisdom or wealth brought meaning. It was all just "striving after the wind." (1:14, 17)

Generations come and go, and nothing is new. (1:4) "He looks out upon humanity, and sees that in one aspect the world is full of births, and in another full of deaths. Coffins and cradles seem to be the main furniture, and he hears the tramp, tramp, tramp of the generations passing over a soil honeycombed with tombs." (Maclaren)

Find true meaning in Jesus. Happy Friday. :)

I hope you are in church this Sunday.