

Contentment

"Behold, what I have seen to be good and to be fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life which God has given him, for this is his lot." Ecclesiastes 5:18

Eating, drinking, and laboring are your portion in life. But if you live for these, you will be frustrated, for you will be living no different from an animal. When you are rightly related to God, living only for Him, then for the first time you can enjoy eating, drinking, and laboring, for you see them from a proper perspective, understanding how they fit into the program of God. Contentment is the fruit of gratitude, gratitude for understanding your purpose. Then, and only then, can the mundane become significant.

Solomon warns that only with this perspective can you be assured of avoiding the misuse of your possessions. Drudgery is the product of the Fall. "In the sweat of your face will you eat bread, until you return to the ground."¹ God made you dust and deity, but only when you are in union with Christ can you understand the value of both. Solomon says "riches were kept by their owner to his hurt," resulting in his spending "all his days in darkness and grief, in much vexation and sickness and resentment."² The greater your possessions, the more they will tend to destroy trust and cause suspicion of others. Rich people tend to feel comfortable only with rich people, for they cannot know the motives of others that want to be their friends. "Are they interested in me or in my money?"

The only thing you can take with you when you die is what you are. If you know this and believe Jesus, then you can become a prey to others and be content, for you understand that it is your calling.

¹ Genesis 3:19 ² Ecclesiastes 5:13, 17