

Verse 12: For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?

Myth: No one has the (14) _____ that I need.

Truth: (15) _____ has all of the answers.

Jer.33:3- "Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and mighty things which you do not know."

Matt.5:6- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall obtain it."

Showing Hope to a Hopeless World

1. Place all of your trust and security in (16) _____ alone.

Matthew 7:24-27 - "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

2. Focus on God and the blessings He has given you, as well as eternity and heavenly (17) _____.

Col.3:2 - "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

3. Do your best to act like (18) _____.

I Cor.11:1 - "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

4. Set (19) _____ and think positively.

Phil.3:12-14 - "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

5. Tell others about the (20) _____ Jesus Christ has made in your life.

Romans 10:14 - "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"



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Answers: 1-owns 2-born 3-purpose 4-choice 5-eternity 6-eternity 7-behave 8-others 9-satisfy 10-destiny 11-choose 12-talk 13-speech 14-answers 15-God 16-God 17-rewards 18-Jesus 19-goals 20-change

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"Diary of a Wimpy Christian: A Study on the Book of Ecclesiastes"

Sunday Evening, July 25th, 2010

Message #7: "Myths of a Lost Man"

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

Pastor Jerry Johnston

Myths of a Lost Man

Verse 1-2: There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: ²A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction.

Myth: Even though I seem to have everything, it seems like someone else is profiting from my abundance. What's the point?

Truth: Ultimately, God (1) _____ everything and none of it really belongs to me.

Psa.50:10 - "For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills."

Verse 3-5: If a man begets a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better than he— ⁴for it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness. ⁵Though it has not seen the sun or known anything, this has more rest than that man,

Myth: I would be better off if I had never been (2) _____, rather than to have to deal with the pain and suffering in life.

Psalms 127:4-5 "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. ⁵Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate."

Truth: God has created my life for a specific (3) _____ and a part of His plan, whether I live for one minute, one year, or one hundred years.

Ecc.3:11 - "He has made everything beautiful in its time..."

Verse 6: even if he lives a thousand years twice—but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to one place?

Myth: Doesn't everyone end up in the same place eternally, so what does it matter how long I live or how good or bad my life is?

Truth: There are actually two options for eternity and everyone has a (4) _____ to choose one or the other.

Matthew 7:13-14 - "Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way which leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it, but narrow is the way and small is the gate which leads to life and there are few who find it."

Verse 7: *All the labor of man is for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied.*

Myth: Nothing I do will last for (5) _____.

Truth: Everything that I do will last for (6) _____ if I make a conscious effort to set my mind on God and His desires.

Matt.6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." – Jim Eliot

Verse 8: *For what more has the wise man than the fool? What does the poor man have, Who knows how to walk before the living?*

Myth: It doesn't seem to matter how I (7) _____; I'll still end up just as well or just as lacking as the next person.

Truth: God expects me to live out my Christianity in a way that (8) _____ can see it and be blessed by it.

Ephesians 2:10 – "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we should walk in them."

Ezekiel 3:17-21 (New King James Version)

¹⁷ "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: ¹⁸ When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. ¹⁹ Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

²⁰ "Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die; because you did not give him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand. ²¹ Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul."

Ezekiel 3:17-21 (The Message)

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ "Son of man, I've made you a watchman for the family of Israel. Whenever you hear me say something, warn them for me. If I say to the wicked, 'You are going to die,' and you don't sound the alarm warning them that it's a matter of life or death, they will die and it will be your fault. I'll hold you responsible. But if you warn the wicked and they keep right on sinning anyway, they'll most certainly die for their sin, but you won't die. You'll have saved your life.

²⁰⁻²¹ "And if the righteous turn back from living righteously and take up with evil when I step in and put them in a hard place, they'll die. If you haven't warned them, they'll die because of their sins, and none of the right things they've done will count for anything—and I'll hold you responsible. But if you warn these righteous people not to sin and they listen to you, they'll live because they took the warning—and again, you'll have saved your life."

Verse 9: *Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.*

Myth: Even the things that I think I want (possessions, relationships, positions of honor) end up not looking as good as I thought they would when I finally get them.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, 17 (The Message)

⁴⁻⁸ *Oh, I did great things: built houses, planted vineyards, designed gardens and parks and planted*

a variety of fruit trees in them, made pools of water to irrigate the groves of trees. I bought slaves, male and female, who had children, giving me even more slaves; then I acquired large herds and flocks, larger than any before me in Jerusalem. I piled up silver and gold, loot from kings and kingdoms. I gathered a chorus of singers to entertain me with song, and—most exquisite of all pleasures—voluptuous maidens for my bed. ⁹⁻¹⁰ Oh, how I prospered! I left all my predecessors in Jerusalem far behind, left them behind in the dust. What's more, I kept a clear head through it all. Everything I wanted I took—I never said no to myself. I gave in to every impulse, held back nothing. I sucked the marrow of pleasure out of every task—my reward to myself for a hard day's work! ¹¹ Then I took a good look at everything I'd done, looked at all the sweat and hard work. But when I looked, I saw nothing but smoke. Smoke and spitting into the wind. There was nothing to any of it. Nothing. ¹⁷ I hate life.

Truth: Nothing will ever (9) _____ me except for God alone.

Ecc.3:11 – "...Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."

Verse 10: *Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he is man; And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he.*

Myth: I have no control over my (10) _____.

I Kings 11:1-4 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites— ² from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. ³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

Truth: God has given me a free will to (11) _____, but can still steer my destiny.

Proverbs 21:1 – "The heart of the king is like a channel of water in the hands of the Lord and He moves it wherever He wishes."

Joshua 24:14-15 "...Serve the LORD! ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

I Kings 18:21 – And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."

Verse 11: (NASB) *For there are many words which increase futility. What then is the advantage to a man?*

Myth: It doesn't matter how much I try to plead my case or (12) _____ to others, it doesn't help.

Truth: My (13) _____ can be a great asset or a great detriment.

Prov.25:11 – "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."

Ecc. 3:7 – "...A time to speak and a time to be silent."

James 3:4-5 – "Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. ⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!"