

Our Relationship with God

Introduction:

- A. Commercials give great insight into our lives:
 - 1. Buy this and your life will be so much happier.
 - 2. Go on this vacation and your troubles go away.
 - 3. Take this medicine and get “healthy.”
 - 4. The fact is, we still have trials, health problems, and whatever trouble faces man.
- B. When looking at life from eternity everything here on earth can seem vain.
 - 1. Solomon’s *experiences of life lead to his conclusion: all is vanity. Ecc. 1:1-2, 13-17*
 - 2. What he meant was: all is vanity ... without God.
- C. To enjoy life on earth as God intended we’ll need to know Him first and foremost.
 - 1. This leaves out many in this world and their lives are a testament to this fact.
 - 2. The troubling part, however, is when Christians fail to enjoy a life in Christ as God intends.
 - 3. With God, however, not only can life be enjoyed, you walk with meaningful purpose (and hope!).

Discussion:

- I. Many Do Not Enjoy Life to the Fullest As God Intends
 - A. Many in this world go through life without a fulfilled life.
 - 1. They come to a point in their life and realize a gaping void, a meaningless life ... in search for something more: drugs, illicit relationships, etc. ... pleasure.
 - 2. Many don’t look beyond their selfish desires even though most long for something beyond what they currently have.
 - B. The exception to the rule: some go through this life “full” but end it empty. Cp. **Lk. 12:16-21**
 - C. Most important for us to contemplate: **why would Christians not have a fulfilling life in Christ?**
 - 1. Too many in the Lord’s church have such a negative outlook on life.
 - 2. This negative outlook runs contrary to the hope that can only be found through a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
 - 3. Of great importance is how this affects relationships this person has with others and God! Cp. **Matt. 22:37-39**
 - D. **Why? Because they have yet to enjoy a genuine relationship with God.**
 - 1. A mental/academic (“Bible study”) understanding is not enough! **Jas. 2:19**
 - 2. There needs to be a “spiritual understanding.” Cp. **Col. 1:9-12**
 - 3. That understanding only comes when we are converted into the image of His Son. **Rom. 8:29; Ecc. 3:11**
 - 4. This is what distinguishes our relationship with God. Cp. **Rom. 9:21, 23**
- II. All Endeavors and Relationships With God Are Profitable
 - A. Those who live to please God are blessed by Him. **Ecc. 2:24-26**
 - 1. We receive wisdom, knowledge, and joy. **V. 26**
 - 2. We are able to bear fruit in a manner pleasing to God.
 - 3. We are able to have an amazing attitude when faced with both the trials of life and those as a result of being *in Christ*. **Jas. 1:2; Rom. 8:28 (1 Pet. 4:12ff)**
 - B. Only with a genuine relationship with God can we be:
 - 1. Vessels of mercy and honor ... and glory.
 - 2. Attractive by those without hope in this world.
 - 3. A true means of encouragement and strength among those in the body of Christ.

Conclusion:

- A. Brethren, consider your endeavors of life, but especially your relationship with God.
- B. Is it genuine? If not, it is in vain.