

“Chasing Life’s Vanities”

By Tony Melton

King Solomon wrote: “I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind” (Ecclesiastes 1:14). Probably, about everyone can relate to the endless circle of this life. We wash the car on Saturday and usually before the next weekend arrives, it is time to clean it again. Most mothers no sooner than finish the breakfast dishes, and it is time to wash the ones left from lunch. The clothes basket is empty by midday only to be running over by the next morning. Our life is an endless cycle of repeated, but never completed activities. Solomon called this “vanity.”

Some people work hard for 40 years and build up a good savings and then die. They never really enjoyed the fruit of their labor. A vast number of healthy people spend their entire life with their bodies fastened in a recliner viewing one program on TV after another. Talk about a vain existence! Others spend their whole life seeking after pleasure or fame only to suddenly wake up one morning realizing their time is almost gone, and they have accomplished nothing lasting. No matter how great we become, or what we achieve in this world, one day the human family will forget that we ever existed.

Our life, I am thankful to say, can have meaning. First, one must become a part of God’s spiritual family. Jesus said, “without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Apart from Christ, we can only live a vain, meaningless life. The corrosive effects of time will sweep away everything we have accomplished. All believers who have been baptized into Christ can lay up for themselves treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20). God will never forget our obedience to Him and the good works we do. Revelation 14:13 says, “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on . . .that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

After commenting on the vanities of this life, Solomon summed up his words saying, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).