

QUESTION: How can we truly enjoy life?

THE GIFT OF GOD

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot.

- Life is “good”
- Enjoyment, not worldly accumulations, is the greatest gift.
- Therefore, neither the plan of God nor our faith was ever meant to stifle our pleasure and joy in possessing things or our joy in life itself.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God.

He who has learned the secret of enjoyment as a gift from God will . . .

- Find divine purpose in his “stuff”
- Rest in God’s eternal purposes
- Discover His labor is never in vain

Ecclesiastes 5:20 He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.

- God’s children are seldom anxious over their mortality
- God has become our joy and strength.

For further study . . .

1. Reviewing the words of Solomon in Ecclesiastes, how do they affirm Jim Carrey’s comment, “*I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it’s not the answer*”?

2. Finding “gain” in our work seems to be a quest of many. Solomon levels some criticism at our ambitions. When you look back on your days spent pursuing achievement and accumulation, where have you found your joy?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 15, with careful attention to verses 58, *“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain”*. The argument of the resurrection has just been presented by the apostle Paul. His conclusion is that it has a direct bearing on our present work and purpose. Why is this true?