

Come Now I Will Test You

Ecc 2

By Russ Earl

We each go about our day generally in the same way every time. We hope to accomplish something, to finish a task or go to work to make some money. Yet, everyday starts and finishes almost the same way. We try endlessly to “get ahead” in our financial state, running after what seems to be an impossible to reach task. A goal that everyday seems to be just as far away as it was the day before.

In chapter two of Ecclesiastes, the “preacher” tested many different things (2:1). The preacher tested different things and strives after various goals throughout chapter two. The preacher seems to be saying in verse two that there seems to be nothing accomplished. He continues to test various things and various goals, and after reaching and fulfilling them all, he said in verse seventeen “*for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.*”

Are we so different in our lives today? Some strive so hard to gain great wealth and material things; yet they would still tell you, they aren’t satisfied. We know this because they are always striving to gain more things and more wealth. No matter how much they have obtained, no matter what they have been able to accomplish, the glory of such things disappears quickly like a vapor. In verse eleven the preachers said “*Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.*” The writer said what we should be mindful of today. We must realize that no matter what we seek in the material form, its pleasures are only short lived and its of no profit to man. The preacher goes on to tell of all the nothingness that came about from his “testing.” All things came and went. Nothing would last forever, and the glory of them was short lived. If you noticed, the words and the attitude of the writer changes from chapter one, now examine chapter twelve. We see how he has perceived what is most important of all. In Ecclesiastes chapter twelve and in verse thirteen he said “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all.*”

Upon reading this verse, it’s clear that the writer has experienced much in his life. The pleasures and the material gain of it all. Yet he realizes that the only thing that matters is to fear God and obey Him (12:13) So what can we gain from Ecclesiastes chapter two. First, that the world is full of vanities, and while we live in this world, we do not have to be involved in the things of this world.

Second we should be mindful that all the material possessions which we may obtain will only perish with time. God has always been, and always will be; thus we can realize what is much more important, which is to fear God and to obey him.

I am reminded of these words from a song I once heard, “In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus, when I am alone, give me Jesus, when I come to die, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, just give ME, Jesus.” The preacher’s closing thoughts are the same as the lyrics here, just give him what he needs, the wisdom to fear God and obey His commandments.

Let us not get wrapped up in this world of material gain and in the pursuit of happiness.

When we realize that we have all we ever need in Christ, then there is nothing more to seek. When we have Christ, our needs are fulfilled and our real goals are set. To fear His Father, obey His commandments and to not go against His will. May we always be mindful of how we spend our time, not in the things of the world but in the work of our Lord.