

Speaker: Pastor Buster Brown

Today's Message: "The Thrill of Kingdom Living

Today's Text: Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

"¹Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. ²Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. ³If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. ⁴He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. ⁵As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. ⁶In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good." **Ecclesiastes 11:1-6**

Living Only Under the Sun

Epicureanism:

the pursuit of pleasure in a socially acceptable fashion.

The Reality of God...

is marginalized because of the inability to define His essence.

Solomon cannot live with the consequences of his "Under the Sun Only" worldview. He has abandoned the worship of the one, true God (I Kings 11:1-8) and has pursued satisfaction/meaning in grasping after wisdom, pleasure, labor and wealth. None of these brought contentment or lasting joy.

In the closing chapters of Ecclesiastes, Solomon returns to the joy and certainty which comes in the worship of God.

"If God does not exist, life is ultimately meaningless. If your life is doomed to end in death, then ultimately it does not matter how you live. In the end it makes no ultimate difference whether you existed or not. Sure, your life might have a relative significance in that you influenced others or affected the course of history. But ultimately mankind is doomed to perish in the heat death of the universe. Ultimately it makes no difference who you are or what you do. Your life is inconsequential.

Thus, the contributions of the scientist to the advance of human knowledge, the research of the doctor to alleviate pain and suffering, the efforts of the diplomat to secure peace in the world, the sacrifices of good people everywhere to better the lot of the human race--ultimately all these come to nothing. Thus, if atheism is true, life is ultimately meaningless." **William Lane Craig, Does God Exist?**

QUESTIONS/THOUGHTS FOR STUDY:

1. A call to liberating living. (vv. 1-2)

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” **Galatians 6:9-10**

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” **Matthew 25:40**

“For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.” **Hebrews 6:10**

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” **1 Corinthians 15:58**

2. Reality [cause and effect] (v. 3) or observant inaction (v. 4)?

3. The limits of finite understanding versus the limitless power of the eternal God. (v. 5)

4. Habits of energetic, grace-filled discipleship. (v. 6)