

Date: May 6, 2012

Subject: I Hated Life - Ecc. 2:17

"Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

-Ecclesiastes 2:17

In examining this text, we will ~~add~~ develop the following observations:

I. The attitude, "Therefore I hated life;"

II. The reason, "because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me:"

III. The disposition, "for all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

### Preface

As we read through the book of Ecclesiastes, we get a view of the world through the eyes of a King who had seen it all, heard it all, read it all, done it all... yet as we read through Ecclesiastes, we can't help but to get the impression that he lacked one thing... faith.

Many people relate to much of what King Solomon wrote, and use it as a means to encourage themselves to maintain their own faithless, hopeless, misdirected feelings; but God does not justify this mentality, and He has been pleased to include this in His Book (for ultimately, they are all His words); not to stay in that condition, but to reveal our own hearts to ourselves and be corrected in our thinking. Finally at the end of Ecclesiastes we read,

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Due to past disappointments many have become discouraged, weary, offended, bitter, even indifferent to the Gospel. It is my prayer that the Lord would be pleased to bring forth "treasure" through this "earthen vessel" (cf. 2 Cor. 4:5-7), to remind us all of the great hope that still lies before us, to go



about our life with the specific purpose of serving our Saviour with a heart full of love, and to brighten the light of our faith depending wholly upon Him. May the Holy Spirit bring forth and urge conviction and repentance as He pleases. I ask in Jesus' name, amen.

## I. The Attitude

King Solomon was very wise and very rich, I am sure he was envied by all the ungodly around him. We see things like this today, don't we? Someone is very rich, very popular, & all the little ungodly children want to grow up to be like that, their heroes are not like those mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11; what did they have?

Those in Hebrews 11 were tortured, cruelly mocked and scourged, imprisoned, stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, and had no place to live... Who wants that, right? But...

But, there was one thing they didn't lack; in fact, some of them, had nothing except this one thing... faith; notice how Hebrews 11 begins,

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report." - Hebrews 11:1-2

Our text this week begins with the word "therefore," so let's read the verse previous to pick up the context, Ecclesiastes 2:16

"For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool."

If we look to this world for the meaning of life, we won't find it. We are born into this world, work all our life, and then just die; we can't take anything with us, and we could never come back... What would be the purpose of life if this were true? That is, if this was it, as the evolutionists would have us believe - we live, we die, that's it - what if that were really true??

Notice how Solomon says at the end, "And how dieth the wise man? as the fool." In this context, the "wise man" would be the Christian, and don't even the Christians die like the rest?? Don't the Christians suffer the same cancers, the same diseases, the same poverties as the wicked? Then why be "wise," why



be a Christian? Why should we deny ourselves "the pleasures of sin for a season,"

"... if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die." - 1 Cor. 15:32

If this were all true, life would have no meaning, we would have no hope, we would have no real purpose in life; "Therefore" says Solomon, "I hated life;"

Do you feel that way beloved? In the confusion of everything, have you ever felt that you hated life? Maybe someone right now feels that way, maybe it's you, or someone you know. Do you find yourself looking at life like Solomon describes here?

If so, then every cross will be a burden; every obedience a chore; the Bible another book; every day would be a burden just to get out of bed... Why?

## II. The Reason

Solomon goes on to explain why he hated life,

"because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me:" Ecc. 2:17

In the beginning we had everything; that is, in Adam. We had nothing but perfect fellowship with God, no sin, no working as we must today. All Adam had to do was "till the ground" (Gen. 2:5) and restfully reap all the provisions of God.

But that wasn't good enough for Adam, was it? He wasn't content with the glorious Garden of Eden God had placed him in because he ate of the one tree in all the Garden that God commanded him not to eat from; and because of his sin, not only are we born spiritually dead with all of our affections opposed to God; but God cursed the ground and so now we must work all our life. God told Adam in Genesis 3:17-19

"Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it:



"Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

There are many reasons people hate life, and working is only one of them. Some people work to live, and others live to work.

On the one hand, the Bible says, "that if any would not work, neither should he eat." (2 Thess. 3:10) and on the other hand the Bible says, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which draws men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Tim. 6:9-10).

Money isn't the answer to our problems, money isn't what is supposed to give us purpose in life.

But money gives "power", doesn't it? O how many hours are wasted by thinking of all the different ways to spend money! How many hours are wasted "browsing", "window shopping" and flipping through catalogues?

And yet, with all that money can bring, if it is spent without faith, it is spent in vain and displeases God. Look at King Solomon, so rich was he that the Bible says that he, "... passed all the Kings of the earth in riches and wisdom." (2Chr. 9:22), and yet we find him hating life and all his riches - not because he had a proper view of them so as to use them but not abuse them; but only because there would come a time, when he could no longer enjoy them! 1 John 2:15-17

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever."



### III. The Disposition

Someone's disposition is their usual mood, their temperament; their overall outlook on life. Solomon's disposition was,

"for all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

- Ecc. 2:17

His life was hated, all his work was grievous, and all was meaningless; these are all sinful thoughts that must be mortified immediately. All the feelings of, "poor me... why me?... why now?... me... me... me..." We must never pamper these sinful, selfish thoughts of unbelief.

After Christ told Peter that He must soon be crucified, listen to what Peter told Him,

"Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto Thee." Mat. 16:22

The phrase, "Be it far from Thee" is literally translated, "Pity Thyself." Peter sought Christ to think of His own best interest, and Christ rebukes him sharply,

"But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto Me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Mat. 16:23

Christ refused to pity himself. He refused to savour the things that be of men... and so should we. Whatever affliction you are going through, no matter how much pain or sorrows, don't let your doubts consume you like cancer, rebuke them sharply like our Lord did and go through them by faith in Him who "doeth all things well." It's not wrong to seek the Father's relief as our Master hath taught us, "Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me:..." yet we must rest content with His will, "...nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done." (Luke 22:42), and His time.

When we look at life through the eyes of faith, suddenly, everything takes on meaning, everything is important to God - even the hairs on our head! We are still here... why? Do you know? There are two reasons,

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"



"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." - Matthew 22:37-40

Number one: love God. Number two: love man. This is why we are still here, this is what we must do if we desire to serve Him. Notice the how on these two commandments everything else hangs. Its as though these two commandments (i.e. love God, love man) are two hangers, upon which the whole ~~gar~~ suit hangs. Each hanger has the shirt, the tie, the pants, the vest, socks, shoes, cufflinks ... everything; because if you love God you will in turn do all which pleases Him and so not sin against Him; if you love man you will in turn do that which pleases him (as directed by the Bible) and you will not sin against him. If you love man, you won't steal from him, you won't hate or kill him, you won't covet what he has, and so on...

If God has given you a new heart and

a new spirit then, "yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." (Rom. 6:13).

Live your life in the constant awareness of God's presence, and let everything you do, pour forth from a heart for the love of God, & by faith live for Him Who died for you,

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

- 2 Peter 1:8-11

So... up your heart my brother! Up your heart my sister!  
i am ever gratefully,

Your servant for Jesus' sake,

Heidi A. Uhl

- 2 Cor. 4:1-5



When We Walk With the Lord, Sammis 1887

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,  
and with all who will trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,  
but His smile quickly drives it away;  
not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,  
can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
but our toil He doth richly repay;  
not a grief nor a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
but is blest if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of His love  
until all on the altar we lay;  
for the favour He shows, and the joy He bestows,  
are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,  
or will walk by His side in the way;  
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go,  
never fear, only trust and obey.