

Jan. 3, 2016 –

- Genesis 5 – Walking with God
- Matthew 5 – Blessedness for those with the eternal perspective
- Ecclesiastes. 1:12-18 – The vexation of seeking wisdom without reference to God

Reflections:

Genesis 5. This chapter records the descendants of Adam, from Creation to the Flood. Note the constant refrain of each generation: living, the begetting of children, and death. Note the dreary monotony that runs through the generations after generations. The chief thing about each life is that they begat so and so and then died. All of this covers about nine hundred years. However, note the break in the catalogue of the generations with Enoch in verses 22-24. The difference between Enoch and the rest is the difference that makes all of the difference in life: “He walked with God.” This is key to the spiritual life: it is the crown and end of a blessed and noble life. All that is done apart from walking with God is a waste. But how did he walk with God? The same way we walk with God: by faith! Read Hebrews 11:5. As I mentioned in Bible class today, faith is always about trusting some authority. Enoch trusted in the authority of God in whatever revelation he received from God. Our faith is never to rest on what we think should or should not be—we do not create the object of faith. Faith is to be grounded in the Word of God. We simply take God as His Word. We do not question God. This is the essence of faith. Enoch so trusted and pleased God that God just took Him to Heaven while he was alive. One might say that his heavenly perspective took him right into Heaven without having to die.

Matthew 5. Reflect on the happiness that Jesus offers in the first 12 verses. Note the eternal perspective. It is my contention that no one can live an authentic Christian life without a dominance in their lives of the eternal perspective. To live for this world is to destroy your spiritual life. Read Matthew 5:19-24; Col. 3:1-3; Philip. 3:18-19. What dominates your mind? What is your heart set on? This world or the next?

Ecclesiastes. 1:12-18. Solomon affirms in this passage that “in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.” Yet, in Proverbs 3:13 he tells us, and the rest of Scripture affirms, that “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding.” Does wisdom bring sorrow or happiness? It depends on the purpose for which wisdom or knowledge are sought. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon is seeking wisdom “under the sun” (Ecc. 1:3), that is, apart from God, as the source of happiness. This he rightly concludes is “vanity and grasping after the wind” (1:14). However, if wisdom is based in “the fear of the Lord” (Prov. 1:7), it is the very means of obtaining true happiness. True wisdom is all about living a life of enlightenment before the Lord—a godly life of righteousness and peace in obedience to God. So, true wisdom is the accumulation of the right kind of knowledge necessary for a spiritually wise life. Wisdom under the sun is just temporal earthly knowledge with no reference to God, which is but a waste, in the End. True wisdom is all about knowing and loving God. Earthly so-called wisdom is not.

In ‘Ehyeh,

Pastor Don