

f. Life Values

ScriptureObservations

7:14

What is really important in life is often missed in the flutter of things we think to be important. Since our vision is very short there is no way we could comprehend what is the most important thing at any given time. But God, who knows and establishes all, shows us the great values of life so that our pilgrimage is not meaningless or frustrated by our ignorance.

8:12

11:9

- g. And to these we may add the general quality of wisdom of heart and mind which constitute the chief part of any learning. But we will not particularize these.
- h. So, in conclusion of this segment, what we cannot gain by our human enterprises is made available by God to those who will appropriate what He gives. The answers to life need are in God, not in ourselves.

This aspect of Ecclesiastes is often missed by students who have simply seen the pessimistic side of the writer as he reviews his own failures and poor emphases. But if one will only take the time to cull from the book all the passages that talk of God, what He knows and what He does, it will be quickly seen that He is of prime importance to our life and the author of what will satisfy us.

All that is pessimistic in Ecclesiastes, you will discover, is offset by powerful assurance of the Divine strategy. It is not an equal amount of material but an equation of ideas. In this sense we come to an important balance between what we are, what we conceive ourselves to be, and what God has in store for us on the basis of appropriation.

3. The Emphasis in Life must Be on the Spiritual, not the Physical

We will not treat this subject in great length although we will return to it from time to time. By spiritual we mean what responds to God and by physical we mean what responds to earth and the mundane concept of existence. We are not going to appeal for a new monasticism since we think that life is to be lived among others for the glory of God but we are appealing to an enrichment of the soul through a fresh appreciation of the work of God. At the same time I do not want to suggest a dichotomy that makes these realities oppose one another...we are not going into some sort of Albigensian error. Man is an entity and soul and body (or soul, body, and spirit) comprise one. Therefore all parts of our being must be considered but the spiritual must prevail as it is the lasting and less frustrated part of our makeup.