

e. Conclusion:

Note it is not our contention, nor the author's, that all these items are meaningless. What is said about them in this segment must be harmonized with what is said later about the work of God. But as an end in themselves, they produce only vanity and vexation of spirit. No human enterprise, no matter how dignified, worthy, or deserving, will fulfill the basic needs of life...and many of the enterprises are not like these points at all.

Observe that it is possible to spend much of your life on the wrong emphasis and the tragedy is that you do not get to do it again. Life is not a "try and if you fail you can do it again policy" so much as it is a "do it right and don't regret it" policy. Happily on the short side we often have the opportunity to correct wrong turns, etc., but on the long haul... there is only one course that is correct and these others will leave us very much like Ibsen's Peer Gynt...with handfuls of nothing.

2. Life Needs Are Supplied by God, Appropriated by Us.

This will call for a bit more defining of "life needs" and we will do that as we go. The reality of supply and appropriation is a pressing matter. It is not so much what God gives as it is what we will take. The operative force is always that of God but in His creating us He has given us responsibility factors that are accountable for executing the options laid before us. In this regard, two things are necessary: 1) that we see what God has given, and 2) that we reach out to appropriate and use it in proportion to the giving.

a. Stability

Scripture:Observations

1:1-7

Our transiency is a cause of great grief.

3:14-15

It seems that in a world of steadiness the thing hardest to continue is life. God and His world are stable, we are not stable. This causes us a lot of emotional trauma but the answer to this can only come from God Himself. He reaches out to us to show us our limitation and His strength. Consequently the one who trusts in Him comes out of the fray of life as a victor.

5:2

7:13

Stability is sometimes linked with acceptance. It is a huge life need. Those who feel out of harmony with the universe and are unhappy in the passage of time are tortured souls. God offers the stability..we must be willing to trust Him and present ourselves to Him as He asks.