

ScripturesObservations

1:13, 18

3:11

7:23 ff

8:16-17

9:16-17

The more one knows the more his frustration increases. It grows both by what one does not know and by the fright one gets from what one does know. The increase of knowledge increases grief. Ignorance is not bliss but the worries of the unlearned are miniscule compared with those who have knowledge. Years ago Thaddaeus Stevens had a slogan.. "Fill the schools and empty the jails" but in more recent times we have learned that this is not correct...we simply have better educated convicts.

As with all these other concepts this is not the complete picture...God must be added to it...but as the experimenter sees, in his self-appointed work this is an inescapable conclusion.

b. Possessions

The Lord has told us that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of things he has (Luke 12:15) but materialism is one of the great gripping forces in our world and we who labor in the ecclesiastical halls are by no means immune to it. The advantage of the writer of this work is that he could participate to the fullest in the amassing of things...speaking in a demeaning way of material possessions was not "sour grapes" with him. We should be able to learn something from someone so completely able to get what he wanted...in the way of things.

ScripturesObservations

2:11, 18-23

4:7-8

5:10-11, 14-15

7:14

There are many detriments to the "things" we possess and one of the demanding ones is that we must one day leave them all. Disastrously, a fool may inherit them or they may be abused by some inane act. They may for a few days give us the sense of attainment or achievement but the actual period of help is not long-lasting. Before we know it, almost, our stock of "stuff" is diminished and we watch it pass away as we pass away. All it really does is give us some momentary release from poverty tension and with that a desire to have more and more.

Please understand that the dark side of this observation is intended to help us sort out our values so that we will know where we are putting our stress and from where we are most likely to get our help.