

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let's Worship God

26th Sept. - 1st Oct. 2016
Ecclesiastes



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Mon.
26th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

All the toil of man
is for his mouth,
yet his appetite
is not satisfied.
Ecclesiastes 6:7

reading

Psalm 37:1-6 - Blessings

notes

In the previous chapter the preacher had demonstrated how important it was for people to make good and proper use of all the good gifts that come to men and women in the providence of God; now he shows how wrong it is to be greatly blessed by God in the provision of good things and then to either fail to use them or to abuse them.

One great lesson that comes from the evil the preacher noticed in verses 1 and 2 is that we are responsible for the way we use the gifts and graces that God has been pleased to bestow upon us, as the Lord Jesus Christ taught, 'From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked'. Luke 12:48 There are four significant blessings highlighted in this section and it would be important for each of us to consider how we receive and deal with the measures of these blessings that we each personally receive.

a. Wealth, possessions and honour. It may be that very few of us would consider that we have been given great wealth and yet, when we look at all that we have been granted in the providence of God in comparison with many throughout the world, we have truly been greatly favoured. Most of us have far more possessions than we really need and often have the respect (honour) of our neighbours or work colleagues. All this comes from the hand of a gracious God who dispenses his gifts as it pleases him. These gifts, however ARE gifts and are to be used for the honour and glory of the giver.

b. How many of us could say with the preacher that we lack nothing we desire? Of course, if the heart is worldly and unsanctified the desires of the heart will also be worldly and never satisfied. If however, the heart and the gaze are fixed on God we will know our heart's desire fulfilled.

questions

1. How can we use our wealth for the glory of God?
2. What should be our heart desire?

praise pray

- Ps. 14:all
1. Give thanks for all the blessings God has given us.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 - 3 Pray for family matters.



Sat.
1st Oct.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

All the toil of man
is for his mouth,
yet his appetite
is not satisfied.
Ecclesiastes 6:7

reading

Ecclesiastes 6:12; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 - After Death

notes

Solomon asks the question, 'who knows what is good for a man in life?'. No doubt we would get a variety of answers if we were to put this question to the general population in a survey. We all think that we know what is best for ourselves; but do we really? This turns the focus away from what we were looking at yesterday - submitting cheerfully to the providential will of God for us. Not many of would think that illness or incapacity would be what was good for us in life, and yet, in the will of God, it may well be. The apostle Paul longed to be free of his physical infirmity (thorn in the flesh) but God's response to him was 'my grace is sufficient for you'. We would perhaps desire wealth, but would that detract from our dependence upon God; we might wish for promotion or high position, but would that make us arrogant and self-sufficient?

If the preacher's first question can be answered by saying simply that 'God does', his second question can also be easily answered. It may well be that Solomon, living as he did before the coming of Christ, would have had difficulty saying what would happen after death, but we have no such problem! 'Who can tell him what will happen?' is a question that is addressed in the message of the gospel. The whole purpose of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ into this world was to undo the tragic consequences of Adam's rebellion; 'since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead' 1 Cor. 15:21 (kjv) - the whole of mankind fell in the fall of Adam so 'as in Adam all die' but all those who are in Christ will be made alive.

The glory of the gospel is that we have an answer for those who ask the question, 'what happens when I die?' We can clear up any doubt or anxiety they may have about the future by directing them to Christ who alone can save their souls.

questions

1. Who knows what is best for us?
2. What happens after we die?

praise pray

- Ps. 17:1-6
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 - 3 Pray for family matters.



Fri.
30th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

All the toil of man
is for his mouth,
yet his appetite
is not satisfied.
Ecclesiastes 6:7

reading Ecclesiastes 6:10-11 - Sovereignty

notes One of the most blessed and encouraging truths in the Word of God for those who properly understand it is the absolute sovereignty of God. Failure to understand this doctrine means that the things that go on in the world happen by random chance or according to some inexplicable evolutionary process and the actions of men and of nations are out of control and are subject to no overarching providence.

The preacher directs our gaze away from such a depressing and frightening prospect to the comforting truth of the providential care of a sovereign God who 'does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" Dan. 4:35. This does not mean that we always understand what God is doing, but the reality is that we do not need to do so! All we need to know is that God is working out his own purposes for the glory of His name and for the good of His people.

On a personal level, it is a great comfort to know that our lot in life is appointed to us in the wisdom of a gracious and loving God and the absolute best that we can do is to cheerfully acquiesce and to get the most satisfaction possible in following the divine will.

Solomon reminds us that whatever we attain or achieve in this world we are still men and women created in the image and likeness of God. It is so easy to see all our achievements and successes in life as being down to our own hard work or our own innate ability or intelligence, and forget that whatever ability we have or whatever position we attain is due to the will of a sovereign God. It is foolish in the extreme to seek to resist the will of God or to seek to contend with him. The prophet Jonah realised that when his flight from God's command landed him in the belly of the big fish!

questions

1. Why is the sovereignty of God a comfort to the Christian?
2. Where do we find out what God's will is?

praise Ps. 16:7-10

pray

1. Give thanks for the sovereignty of God.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
27th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

All the toil of man
is for his mouth,
yet his appetite
is not satisfied.
Ecclesiastes 6:7

reading Ecclesiastes 6:1-3 - Family and Life

notes We considered yesterday two of the blessings that come to us in the providence of God, we now want to consider two more that are mentioned in the opening section of chapter 6, blessings or gifts that must be used properly and wisely.

c. The gift of family. To have children was seen in the Old Testament as an evidence of the blessing and favour of God Psalm 127:3-4, and the failure to have children a cause of shame and distress Gen. 16:1-2; 1 Sam. 1:10-11. The Scripture is clear that it pleases the Lord to set the lonely in families, man was never intended to be on his own! Gen. 2:18, Psalm 68:6. The basic unit of society is husband and wife, most often complemented by the gift of children. In an age when marriage is downplayed or corrupted, it is absolutely vital for Christian men and women to glorify God in their God-given marriage relationships - husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church Eph. 5:25, wives are to submit to their husbands Eph. 5:22, children are to obey their parents Eph. 6:1, and parents are not to exasperate their children Eph. 6:4.

d. The gift of long life. Long life is something that many people would long for - we often hear expressions like a 'life cut tragically short' when somebody dies young - but more important than length of days is the way that those days are to be spent. Solomon expresses the absolute futility of life lived without the proper use and enjoyment of all that God has provided, by speculating on a life span of two thousand years - even such an impossibly long life would be without meaning if the gifts and graces granted are not put to a proper use. So much so, that he reckoned that it would have been better not to have been born at all!

The years that God in his mercy gives us must be used in a way that pleases and glorifies him - The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever.

questions

1. How does the Bible view children?
2. How can we use our life to glorify God?

praise Ps. 15A:all

pray

1. Give thanks for the covenant children of the church.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
28th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

All the toil of man
is for his mouth,
yet his appetite
is not satisfied.
Ecclesiastes 6:7

reading Ecclesiastes 6:4-6 - Death Comes To All

notes In a very bleak and dark comment the preacher considers that the life of a person given much by God, who chooses not to enjoy or use those benefits wisely or profitably, is worse than that of a stillborn child! He reasons that the child that dies at birth has no knowledge of the world and sees nothing of the iniquities and trials of life and so is better off than the person who has seen much and received much, but has nothing of contentment, satisfaction, or pleasure in it all. As far as he is concerned, the less we have to do with this troublesome world, the less trouble we have!

He gives the reason for the conclusion that he comes to in the form of a rhetorical question, 'do not all go to the same place?'. In one sense, what he says is absolutely true, for whatever differences there may be in life, be that in terms of wealth or poverty, wisdom or foolishness, high or low social standing, all ultimately find themselves in the grave. Death is the only common denominator shared by all, whether long lived or short-lived, as so succinctly stated in Hebrews 9:27 'people are destined to die once '. The preacher however, stops at that point whereas Hebrews adds a very significant phrase, ' and after that, to face judgement'.

It is true that every man or woman must die and in that way go to the same place, but the Bible is very clear that the grave is not the end - all must pass through the same place (death) but the destination of all is by no means the same! All do not end up in the same place! The story told by the Lord Jesus Christ in the gospel of Luke 16:19 - 31 shows that there are two destinations; heaven for those who trust in the Lord Jesus and hell for those who continue in rebellion against him.

questions

1. What happens to each person?
2. What happens after death?

praise pray Ps. 15B:all

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



Thur.
29th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

All the toil of man
is for his mouth,
yet his appetite
is not satisfied.
Ecclesiastes 6:7

reading Ecclesiastes 6:7-9 - Contentment

notes If man is to search for happiness in this life, Solomon assures him that he will not find it in the accumulation of wealth or possessions. If the whole of the effort and labour of man is directed towards appeasing his physical appetites, then life is truly meaningless! There is nothing for the soul, nothing for the mind, and nothing for the heart and the emotions. Not only so, Solomon also teaches that such an attitude means that he will always seek more and never be satisfied. v.7. The natural desires that all men have - food, shelter, etc. return day after day and must be continually satisfied, but all the wealth of the world cannot satisfy the thirsty soul. The Psalmist knew this when he looked back to Israel's complaining in the wilderness and pointed out that God gave them what they asked for but 'sent leanness to their souls' Ps. 106:15. A lesson that was reinforced by the Lord Jesus Christ in his story about the foolish man who considered that when his barns were full, he could sit back and enjoy himself, not knowing that that very night his soul would be in eternity. Lk. 12:20

Looking just at material wealth Solomon makes the astute observation that it does not matter whether it is possessed by a wise man or a fool. Matthew Henry puts it well when he says, 'what can a wise man, a scholar, a wit, a politician, squeeze out of his estate more than needful supplies? and a half-witted man may do this'. It is not the possession of goods that marks out a man, but rather the contentment that he has in what he possesses, whether much or little, and the way that he conducts himself before men. The believer will not have what Solomon describes as a 'roving of the appetite', but will be content with 'what the eye sees', in other words, what he presently has before him. 'Godliness with contentment is great gain'.

questions

1. Where will we not find contentment?
2. Where will we find contentment?

praise pray Ps. 16:1-6

1. Pray that we would be content.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.