

December 13, 2020
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Ecclesiastes: Ancient Wisdom Learned In 2020
Ep. 5 THE CURSE OF STUFF
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Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

¹⁸This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

2020 has been a year of extremes and extremes are easy.

Key Premise of Ecclesiastes 5 — Contentment and satisfaction are not measured by dream chasing and accumulation of stuff.

2 questions:

- 1. Is "want" consuming you?**
- 2. Do you know what you really want?**

There are two ways to get enough. One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less. *G.K. Chesterton*

Gems in Chapter 5

- 1. Dreams exact a toll - Vs. 3** *A dream comes when there are many cares, and many words mark the speech of a fool.*
- 2. Chasing wealth guarantees discontentment - Vs. 10** *Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.*

Get the balance right.

It is appropriate to enjoy life - Vs. 18 *This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot.*

- Chasing enjoyment- The more you have the more difficult it is to enjoy life.
 - **Vs. 19** *Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.*
 - **Vs. 12** *The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.*

The curse of self-reflection: Vs. 20 *They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.*

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Is "want" consuming you?
2. What would it take for you to move from want to contentment?
3. What are some "wants" that you could remove from your life?
4. What are you chasing? Is it time to stop?
5. Do your current pursuit of your dreams empower or discourage you?
6. How often do you self-reflect? Should you do it less?