

IT'S NEVER ENOUGH
Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

I. ARE YOU SATISFIED?

- A. *"He who loves money will not be satisfied with money; nor he who loves wealth, with gain: this also is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 5:10).*
- B. I Know What You Need!
 - 1. One researcher has suggested that every seven seconds we're given the message that our life is measured by our stuff.
 - 2. We believe that our self-worth is determined by our net-worth.
 - 3. If the statistics are right, 92% of us are in some trouble financially and 65% of us are in serious trouble.
- C. I Know What You Want!
 - 1. SUVs used to be a luxury, and now they're a "necessity."
 - 2. The average home today is 55% larger than they were in the '70s.
 - 3. We eat mega meals, shop in mega malls and attend mega churches.

II. ARE YOU HONEST?

- A. *"Sweet is the sleep of the laborer, whether he eats little or much" (vs.12).*
- B. What Do You Own?
 - 1. How many of you own a TV set, a car or a house?
 - 2. The first biblical principle is that we don't own anything.
 - 3. God owns everything. We are merely managers or stewards.
- C. Money Is Not the Problem.
 - 1. Money is just a symptom of the problem.
 - 2. A second biblical principle is that we can earn whatever we can if we earn it honestly.

III. ARE YOU GENEROUS?

- A. *"Behold, what I have seen to be good and to be fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life which God has given him..." (vs. 18)*
- B. Do You Tip or Tithe?
 - 1. Ten percent belongs to God and the rest belongs to me.
 - 2. If I like the service, I will tip well. If I am not pleased, I will give less or not at all.
- C. What Are You Trading Away?
 - 1. Is it health, relationships, time or peace?
 - 2. Zwingli said, "If you possess something you cannot give up, you don't possess it, it possesses you."
- D. What Legacy Are You Leaving?
 - 1. "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully..." (2 Cor. 9:6)
 - 2. We must learn to trust God more than money!

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, **Becky Gibson**, Mac Kerr, Anne Miller, Carol Webb... **Friends** – Bobby Atkins, Madison Brooke Binkley, Jim Bufford, Bobby Byrd, Ed Bowen, **Doris Browder**, Erin Crawford, **Helen Davis**, Jane Davis, Ruby Dudley, Kenny Frazee, Mary Ann Griffin, Nancy Gunnels, Bonnie Hart, **Jim Hixon**, Benette Hobday, Jeff Joyner, Linda Lindner, Macy Morgan, Bertie Owen, Ricky Petty, Shirley Rice, Elizabeth Todd ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Gracious God, we love you and want to serve you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We want to give you everything we have and everything we are, but we hold back. We don't know where all this self-giving will lead. Maybe we are holding out for absolute assurance that a total commitment to you will be worth it. Having a good return on our investment is important to us in other areas of our lives so perhaps we want to know that you are a good investment. What's in it for us? So we play it safe. We reserve some of our time for you, a day here and an hour or two there. We share a little of our talent and give part of our income. We play it safe. We reserve and share and give just enough to make us feel like our bases are covered, just in case you keep a record of such things, but not enough to actually limit our lives.

We confess, O God, that money means a lot to us. No matter how much we have it never seems like we have enough. Keep us from concentrating solely on what we don't have, and give us the wisdom to focus on what you have placed in our lives. Faith means trusting you above everything else and love means acting on that faith. We know our relationship with you is right when we love you more than anything else and serve others in your name. May we realize that true life is found in loving you and enjoying you forever. This is our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ECCLESIASTES 5:10-20

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money; nor he who loves wealth, with gain: this also is vanity.

When goods increase, they increase who eat them; and what gain has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much; but the abundance of the rich will not let him sleep.

There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, and those riches were lost in a bad venture; and he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil, which he may carry away in his hand. This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go; and what gain has he that he toiled for the wind, and spent all his days in darkness and grief, in much vexation and sickness and resentment?

Behold, what I have seen to be good and to be fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life which God has given him, for this is his lot. Every man also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and find enjoyment in his toil - this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

October 29	<i>Generations of Generosity</i>	Psalm 145
	Youth-Led Worship	
November 5	<i>The Demands of Discipleship</i>	Mark 10:17-31
	Commitment Sunday/All Saints' Day	
November 12	<i>Don't Just Sit There</i>	Mark 10:46-52

On the Radio (1450 AM):

October 29	<i>I Believe in Grace</i>	Ephesians 2:1-9
November 5	<i>How Much Do We Really Need?</i>	Luke 12:13-21
November 12	<i>A Few Things to Forget</i>	Philippians 3:12-16