

Title: The Path of Life
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Introduction

The book of Ecclesiastes has only twelve chapters and is a contrast of two different views of life. Two statements that come from Ecclesiastes represent each of these positions. "Vanity, Vanity, all is vanity" and, "Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all."

1. The word "Ecclesiastes" comes from the Latin translation of the _____ title Qoheleth.
2. In English, the name Qoheleth is translated as "The _____."
3. He endorses wisdom as the means for a _____ earthly life.
4. But without a view of the _____, he cannot ascribe any lasting meaning to this life.
5. The preacher's advice, in the end, is to fear God and keep His commandments, for that is the whole duty of _____.
6. Only God's eternal presence and _____ can help us make sense of our human experiences.
7. The preacher says that timing has an essential _____ on everything.
8. God has an eternal plan and _____ for your life!
9. Choosing Christ is the only real _____ to the problems and questions we face in life.
10. This life is temporal, and all you do seems to fade away _____.
11. Since God chooses to do his work through us, the work He does through us will abide _____.

I. Begin to See God's Presence Around You

12. God's work in creation displays His _____ every day of your life.
13. Beauty is something that's very difficult to _____.
14. The beauty of God is something that thoroughly _____ nature.
15. God's beauty is _____.
16. The detail of God's artistry _____ all of life.
17. Begin your day by recognizing the eternal presence of God and be _____ by Him!
18. You are a product of God's creative genius, and that alone gives you _____ value!

II. Receive God's Presence Within You

19. God has placed within the heart of every person a consciousness of _____ and a longing after it.
20. God has put within us a _____ of eternal life!
21. The _____ of eternity is still deep within you.
22. Discovering God is not simply an intellectual _____.
23. It is a matter of entering into _____ with the Creator.
24. God's laws of eternity are upon the fleshly _____ of our hearts.
25. Everyone worships _____!

26. The ultimate work of Christ through the Holy Spirit is to _____ eternity within you.

III. Let God Reign Over You

27. The finite can never attain _____.

28. People today live in a constant state of _____.

29. Nothing in this life will ever sufficiently _____ us for eternity.

30. The joy and hope of those who believe in Christ is that there are greater things to _____ and enjoy beyond the bounds of time and space.

31. God plans to give us bodies that will allow us to discover for eternity just how _____ He really is!

32. God is greater than our _____!

33. Focus on God's power and _____ instead of your life's problems and difficulties.

Conclusion

33. Don't become a captive of time or a _____ of your circumstances.

34. Ask for and accept His _____.

35. God is not the _____ of everything that happens to you.

36. Everything God _____ happens for a reason.

37. Be careful about _____ things to God He is not a part of!

Many things in this sinful world defy logic and reason. The beauty of the Gospel is that God can use whatever has happened to reveal His love and grace. Even in the worst situations of life, God can work things out for your eternal benefit. Allow the presence of God to become so real to you that no situation of life can destroy your faith.

The challenge of the preacher is, "Will you keep struggling with the issues of your life, or surrender them to God and ask Jesus to come into your heart and remove the struggle and fill you with His presence and peace."

Answers

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|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Hebrew | 14. permeates | 27. infinity |
| 2. Preacher | 15. profound | 28. struggle |
| 3. well-lived | 16. saturates | 29. prepare |
| 4. eternal | 17. inspired | 30. experience |
| 5. everyone | 18. unique | 31. great |
| 6. purpose | 19. eternity | 32. circumstances |
| 7. impact | 20. consciousness | 33. wisdom |
| 8. purpose | 21. seed | 34. victim |
| 9. solution | 22. pursuit | 35. help |
| 10. quickly | 23. fellowship | 36. cause |
| 11. forever | 24. tablets | 37. does |
| 12. beauty | 25. something | 38. assigning |
| 13. define | 26. manifest | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Are you satisfied with the life you're living? Why or Why Not?
2. Do you see God at work in your world? If so, how is He currently working?
3. Have you heard someone say (or said yourself) "Everything happens for a reason"? What parts of what is happening in your life IS God a part of? What parts of what is happening in your life is God NOT a part of? What can you do to maximize the former and minimize the latter?