

## Just Checking In: What matters? What Lasts! Nov 15, 2009



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### MCD Just Checking In #75

## What Matters? What Lasts! Nov 15, 2009

Pilgrim's Process Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a pilgrim with You..."

***What matters? What lasts?      What matters most? What lasts the longest!***

I was reading one of my favorite books the other day: ***Ecclesiastes***. Now I know some folks think Ecclesiastes is the most depressing, negative, hopeless book ever written and some even question its value for the believer. But if we understand Solomon's purpose, we will value it greatly.

***Solomon tells us of his wandering away to pointless pursuits of the temporal.***

Chapter 1 begins with his frustrating conclusion on his observations of "life under the sun." He is eloquent about the obvious... **"What you do doesn't stay done. What you get you can't keep. What you learn dies with you. It's all impermanent and therefore pointless."**

You can hear the frustration in his words... ***"I must leave them... he must leave all...what does a man get to keep...so I hated life!"***

Empty... temporary... nothing lasts!!! If it doesn't last, it doesn't matter!

Or as the KJV puts it... ***"Vanity of Vanities, all is vanity"***

This song (it is Hebrew Poetry).. is akin to the old *Peggy Lee* song... "Is that all there is???" (Sorry, that dates

me, eh?) But the difference between *Peggy Lee* and *Solomon* is the last chapter.... Peggy's song ends with ***fatalistic despair***, Solomon's ends with ***eternal wisdom***... 12:1-12 ***“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come”*** (old age and death.) ***“Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”***

**THERE IS MORE TO COME. THEREFORE SOMETHINGS WILL MATTER.... FOREVER!**

Solomon reminds us that there is coming a day when God's judgment will test and reveal what really mattered in life. **You see, what matters in life is what lasts after death! What matters most lasts longest.**

The Bible everywhere reminds us of this crucial, corrective truth. Don't spend your life, your energies, your time and your abilities amassing temporal treasures you can't keep. Would anyone invest in a stock they knew was going to end up worthless? Not unless they were stupid! Then let's not invest our lives in worthless endeavors we can't take with us. Invest your energies in the glory of God, the church of Jesus Christ, immortal souls, and an endless kingdom. ***Invest in that which lasts.*** Because... ***that which matters most lasts longest!*** And if it doesn't last, it doesn't much matter!

### **Self-check questions:**

1. List the things Solomon invested great energy in that he then realized wouldn't last? See Ch 2
2. See how many times death is mentioned or referred to in the book? (It's the “Fly in the ointment”)
3. What's your favorite Bible passage that reminds you that “What matters most lasts longest”?

### **For further study:**

**1 Cor 3:12-15; Luke 12:13-21; Matthew 6:19-24; Matthew 16:23; James 5:3; 2 Cor 5:10; Rev 18:17; 1 Tim 6:7; Col 1:5; 2 Tim 4:8;**

**“Lord, You know how easy it is for me to get all caught up in the temporal. Worry, frustration, anxiety, impatience... they never seem to be focused on what matters eternally, but rather only on the immediate and temporary. The longer I live it seems the less patience I have and the greater my tendency to focus on the immediate and forget the eternal. Lord, this shouldn't be. I know better. Forgive me for my fickle heart and feeble mind. Give me a renewed focus on forever and a renewed passion for the eternal. I want to remember this day, that matters, really matters... is what lasts. And what matters most lasts longest. O Everlasting King, capture my**

**heart today. Amen.”**

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

*Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.*

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