

3. We try to find IT in_____.

Ecclesiastes 2:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well--the delights of the heart of man.

Proverbs 22:1-2 (NIV)

¹ A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. ² Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

4. We try to find IT in_____.

Ecclesiastes 2:9,11 (NIV)

⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. ¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

The hidden virtue of emptiness:

Point #1: We can only find meaning in_____.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the whole [duty] of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Point #2: God gives meaning _____ as we put Him first.

Answers: Meaning, pleasure, busyness, affluence, achievement, putting God first, everyday

"Virtue of Emptiness"

Pastor Lance Brown

October 12, 2014

Ecclesiastes Chapter 2

Presupposition: We want our life to have "_____".

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (NIV)

¹ The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

² "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

1. We try to find IT in_____.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-2 (NIV)

¹ I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless.

² "Laughter," I said, "is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?"

Proverbs 21:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

Ecclesiastes 2:3 (NIV)

³ I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly--my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.

2. We try to find IT in_____.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-6 (NIV)

⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.

Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

²¹ Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

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