

November 27, 2022

Viewpoint from the Valley Grove Church Of Christ

Nothing To Live For

By David Watts

Somebody once said, “Many people have everything to live with and nothing to live for.” How true that is. Many wealthy people live hollow, meaningless lives. They have more than enough possessions to make life comfortable, but they have little purpose in life to make it meaningful.

It takes decades before some people eventually realize that life lived for mere self-indulgence is ultimately an empty life. A time can come, however, when even the shiniest new car, or the biggest house, or the flashiest jewelry, can’t mask the hollowness of a life without high purpose.

The Bible doesn’t condemn all wealth, and new cars and nice houses are not wrong. But lasting satisfaction doesn’t come from mere things or self-indulgence. On the other hand, people with little to live with may have much to live for. For example, Jesus’ apostles were not wealthy (Acts 3:6), but their lives had real purpose.

The scriptures assure us that God can bring purpose into our lives too. He can give us something to live for that is missing from the lives of people whose lives are hollow and without purpose. It has been said that a man who has not lost himself in a cause bigger than himself, has missed one of life’s mountaintop experience that can last the rest of your life — it can ultimately take you to be with God.



A student’s chances of passing final exams are almost non-existent if he has no knowledge of the material upon which he will be tested. How will a man fare in the final judgment without the knowledge of what will examine him? “*He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.*” (John 12:48).

***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually
from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

Popularity Without Principle

By Jere Frost

“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets.” (Luke 6:26, KJ) “You are in trouble when everyone says good things about you. That is what your own people said about those prophets who told lies.” (Luke 6:26, NIV)

People do not characteristically want unpleasant truths. They prefer comforting lies. The false prophet understands this, and like his political counterpart he seeks out that message he believes most people will approve. Politicians do it by polls. They actually pay people to take samples of what positions and platitudes people most want to hear, and then they go out and say those very things. It is shallow in substance but profound in effect. Preachers do the same thing, except that they do not need polls. Truth unsettles us. We may be comfortable and satisfied, and then truth rebukes us and “unsettles” us. A man of conscience will repent and change his life. But sin-loving, self-willed men will oppose that truth. However, they want to appear to love truth, so they seek out preachers who will preach what they like. As Paul said:

“... After their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.” (2 Tim. 4:3b)

It is a “self-feeding” process. There are plenty of preachers and politicians who want to say what people want to hear, and there are plenty of people who will reward the preachers and politicians who do it. So the reality of it is that they are actually looking for each other! It is therefore no compliment to a preacher or politician to be particularly popular, and certainly such should never be the goal. Consider Jeremiah’s comment about his generation:

“The prophets prophesy falsely and my people love to have it so ...” (Jeremiah 5:31)

The empowerment and credibility of the false prophet (and politician) is in the fact of his popularity. “Look at his following!” they say. “That many people cannot be wrong!” “He must surely be doing something, or a lot of things, right!” So it goes! It is once again a “self-feeding” situation where preacher, politician and people make each other feel good, all kinds of sin, corruption and abuses notwithstanding.

But do not altogether blame the preacher or the politician. It could not happen if the people did not “love to have it so.” Or if it was not for the fact, as Jesus said, that “men love darkness rather than light.” (John 3:19)

Whatever else is true, popularity is more of a sign of desertion of duty than a rendering of right. Remember, Jesus said, *“Woe unto you when all men speak well of you.”*

Six Steps To A Broken Home

By Bill Hall

A home is seldom destroyed “overnight.” Its destruction is usually the result of certain fatal steps taken over a lengthy period of time. In these days, when so many homes are crumbling, we would do well to examine our own marital relationships, to see if we have begun to travel the road to inevitable breakup. The following steps lead down that road.

1. Selfishness. This may be the number one enemy of a happy life. Each person is doing his own thing. Neither is willing to give up what he wants to do, that wholesome activities may be enjoyed together. Each is seeking his own satisfaction in material realms, in sexual activities, or in time spent with relatives, with little concern for the partner’s satisfaction in these matters. The long road is begun.

2. Intolerance. Faults in one’s partner begin to show up that somehow had been hidden during the courtship period. Or, if the faults were evident, they become far more irritating in a day to day, living together, relationship. Gradually those faults are magnified. Nagging begins. Each decides that he has made a terrible mistake in his marriage. Disillusionment sets in.

3. Resignation. Both parties become resigned to their situation. “We’ve made our bed; we will just have to lie in it,” they think. No further effort is made to build a happy home. Communication virtually ceases. Love begins to fade, and in many cases gives way to bitterness.

4. End of sexual relations. The communication barrier soon affects the sexual relationship, and the couple find themselves no longer enjoying and fulfilling this God-given purpose in marriage. They have allowed their marriage to deteriorate into a mere housekeeping relationship. Such people may be easy pushovers for the next step.

5. Adultery. Temptation can arise so unexpectedly, and many a person whose physical needs are not being met at home may yield to the temptation. Rationalization comes easy in such cases: the person feels he has never gotten a “fair shake” at home; he deserves this new-found attention; this true love (?); he is sure someone understands him for the first time. How deceptive sin is! Considerable time has passed since our couple took those first steps toward a broken home, but now their journey is completed. Only one other step remains.

6. Separation. The thing that has obviously destroyed this home is sin, but not just the sin of adultery. For selfishness, intolerance, lack of love, bitterness, and failure to satisfy physical needs (whenever possible) all constitute sin. We

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

can come to but one conclusion. Sin is the cause of broken homes. It may be sin on the part of both parties, or on the part of only one, but a home is broken because of sin.

Consider your own marriage. If repentance is needed, repent. "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

***"Talent is God's gift to man!
The use of talent is man's
gift to God!"***

***"We never get all of God until
He gets all of us!"***

***"Remember: you don't find out
what you've learned until
you've been tested!"***

***"Happy people are those who are
producing something!"***

***"A man wrapped up in himself
makes a very small package!"***

***"Bearing one another's burdens
is different from bearing down
on them!"***

December Birthdays: The 8th Melton Yarbrough; The 14th Jacob Hisaw; The 16th Doug Morgan; The 20th Ian, Landon, and Kevin Collins; The 23rd Ricky Thomas; The 24th Robin McCartney; The 29th Gail Justice; The 30th Alicia Threadgill.

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Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship 10:30 A.M.

Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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