

# LIVING WITH *The End* IN MIND

## *LIVING WITH THE END IN MIND Part 2 - Chasing After the Wind*

As discussed last week, according to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. More effort, wisdom, pleasure, food, wine, laughter, accomplishments, square footage, and wealth will not bring more meaning to your life. We worship the Giver, not the gifts.

### **Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 and Matthew 16:24**

- What does it mean when we hear “You will never enjoy God and life if you deny yourself nothing?”
- Have you ever purposely denied yourself something to focus on God? If so, what was the result?
- Is God calling you to deny yourself something for a period of time? If so what, for how long, and for what purpose?

### **Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-23**

- Describe what it looks like when someone is “chasing after the wind”. At night, is your mind at rest? If not, what is occupying your thoughts?

### **Read Ecclesiastes 2:24-26**

- Remembering the Giver is not the same as the gifts, what are the gifts He gives and to whom does he give them? What happens when we start to enjoy the gifts more than the Giver?

### **Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20**

- What does it look like to model “gladness of heart?” Who do you know that has modeled the “gladness of heart” from verse 20?
- Are you modeling gladness of heart to those in your circle?

### **Read Philippians 4:12-13**

After reading verse 13 in context, does it make sense that “all this...” (or “all things” in some translations) refers to “the extremes of life...”? Discuss the meaning of these verses in context. How do we apply this concept in our everyday lives?

What is the “secret” to Paul’s contentment in verse 12? Does **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** provide the answer? How does this “secret” correlate with the “chief end of man” mentioned earlier?

In closing, pray for each other that we will worship God rather than His gifts and that we will model a life of gratitude and “gladness of heart”.

*Discussion Questions*

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