

What is Your Only Comfort ...

Folks want to be comfortable. It's a natural thing.

We expend our whole working lives to put away enough so we can be at ease for a while, before we "drift off" into the sunset. That's if we make it to those "golden years." Along the way, we allow ourselves some creature comforts. Maximize wellness, minimize stress - a delicate balance, to be sure.

But there's a deeper side to the question, and it lends context to all our striving. "Meaningless, meaningless" says the Preacher. "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." What's he talking about? It's an age-old question. "What profit has a man from all of his labor in which he toils under the sun?" The writer of Ecclesiastes was frustrated with the unending futility of everything he saw and tried. There's nothing intrinsically wrong with work or even wealth. But, he ponders, why bother? Finally, he says, here it is "... the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil"

Is that it then? Will we really stand before an eternal judge who will demand an accounting for all our work? We have a sneaking suspicion about that don't we? Is this a comfort, or a curse? The obituaries confirm our earthly end. Is there any way to gain a bit of comfort and encouragement despite that nagging thought? Buy, sell, work, play, give love and receive it - and if we do some really nice things once in a while, just maybe it'll be "good enough."

The Bible is clear "man is appointed to die once, and then to face judgment."

The question of comfort has a two-fold answer: what Jesus has done for me, and what He continues to do for me. Christ satisfied the demands of a just God, and He preserves forever those who trust and love Him.

The misery of mankind is great, and the comforts we work for are so fleeting. This weekend, as we enjoy the fruits of our labor, shall we "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die?" Or why not instead secure eternal treasure by trusting in the work already done by the Giver and Sustainer of life?

There can be no resting easy until we have that question settled.

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