



Vanity of vanities,
all is vanity

Dr. Johnson Cherian



**If a man lives many years and
rejoices in them all, yet let him
remember the days of darkness, for
they will be many. All that is coming
is vanity. Remember now your
Creator in the days of your youth....**

(Ecclesiastes 11:8, 12:1)





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**"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?
(Ecclesiastes 1:2, 3)**

At some point of time in their lives, most people who live in our generation have felt what king Solomon says in the verses above. He was one of the richest kings of Israel and the wisest, yet he felt that everything was vanity. Perhaps you have also felt the same in the past or are feeling it now. Has this life any meaning? is a question many people ask. Sickneses and troubles outweigh the joy and peace that one desires. The poor may look at the rich and say that they have no problems, but only the rich know their troubles. Wars, famines, floods, earthquakes, pestilences, terrorism, exploitation and every other crime are already at their zenith in our times. There are very few people who lead a contented life. Are you content with the way your life is going?

**I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.
(Ecclesiastes 1:14)**

Come to think of it, mankind has achieved remarkable progress in various fields- arts, science, commerce, technology and travel, yet instead of building and restoring the weaker nations, there is a craze to annex and annihilate. Most of the stronger nations have weapons of mass destruction and are piling more, yet





they keep talking about global peace. Global life expectancy is around 70 years and we learn things in life by what we experience. As of today, whatever be your age, what have you understood about life on earth? How do you feel about the years that you have already lived? What do you think the future holds for you? Do you feel like king Solomon once felt?all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore, enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also was vanity. (Ecclesiastes 2:1)

When people get frustrated with never ending problems in life, many turn to smoking, drugs, alcohol, infidelity and wayward living. Others do these because they are rich and affluent. At some juncture in his life, king Solomon took a decision to enjoy life beyond general permissible limits. He gratified his flesh with wine and whatever his eyes desired, he did not keep from them. He did not withhold his heart from any pleasure and ended up having 700 wives and 300 concubines. How would you describe your life? Are you also toying with your life, gratifying your flesh with whatever pleases you or are you living righteously?

So I said in my heart, "As it happens to the fool, It also happens to me, And why was I then more wise?" Then I said in my heart, "This also is vanity." (Ecclesiastes 2:15)

What would people remember you for when you are no longer a part of this world? King Solomon is known for being one of the richest and wisest kings of Israel, a person whom God





blessed with divine wisdom, knowledge and understanding and riches galore; He is also known for leading a careless and reckless life and losing his good standing with God. How's your relationship with God? Do you call upon the living God?

Therefore, I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind. (Ecclesiastes 2:17)

Do you hate the life that you are living or do you love it? Most have an opinion of life that's somewhere in the midst of these 2 extremes. A few who hate life go to the extreme of taking their own lives as we read in the news often. Taking one's own life is not the solution to life's problems and must never be done. It's also a sin against the Creator who has given us life. King Solomon, to whom God Almighty had appeared twice in dreams had a great fellowship with God in the initial years of his life, but then he went into idolatry and promiscuity which angered God and he was punished by God for his waywardness. Do you feel God is punishing you for your sins? Are you at peace with Him?

For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. (Ecclesiastes 3:19)

Birds, animals, fish, men...living creatures die and we all know about it. But do you know what happens to a person when





he/she dies on earth? Every person born on earth has a fleshly body, a spirit and a soul. When a person dies, the dead fleshly body is buried or cremated, but the spirit and soul live forever. Though we cannot see our spirit and soul, they exist and they live on after our bodily death on earth. And where do the spirit and soul of a person who has died on earth live? They either live in Heaven which is a place that God Almighty, the Creator has prepared for them who live a life in obedience to His commands or in Hell which is the eternal punishment for the ones living in rebellion to God. Are you aware of these facts?

Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity." (Ecclesiastes 12:6-8)

Birth, infancy, childhood, teenage years, young adulthood, middle adulthood, old age, death is the usual sequence of a person's life; silver cord, golden bowl, pitcher shattered, wheel broken can mean spinal cord, brain, heart or blood vessel problems (of course, to some people, death comes prematurely because of making poor choices in life). Seasons move fast and ultimately it will be time to stand before the Creator to whom we belong. Everyone is answerable to Him and He decides where we ultimately live in eternity, Heaven or Hell.





Let us hear 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. (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14)

Life on earth can be demanding, perplexing and traumatic, making us feel that all is vanity as king Solomon found during a phase of his life, but he came to realize ultimately that everything is vanity or meaningless when one doesn't include God Almighty, the Creator in the picture. When we fear God and keep His commands, He is there with us continually through every phase of our life on earth.

**Jesus says,
Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)**

In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:27)

Eternal life in Heaven cannot be earned. Jesus Christ, the righteous son of God, paid the price for your sins and unrighteousness by being crucified on the cross by his enemies and believing in his death and resurrection and living a life





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consecrated to him in obedience to the Word of God, the Bible is the path to eternal life.

Death will come when your God determined time on earth is over. You can be sure of living eternally with God in Heaven after that by believing in Jesus Christ now and living for Him.

He says, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies." (John 11:25)

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**Though a sinner does evil a hundred
times, and his days are prolonged, yet
I surely know that it will be well with
those who fear God, who fear before Him.**

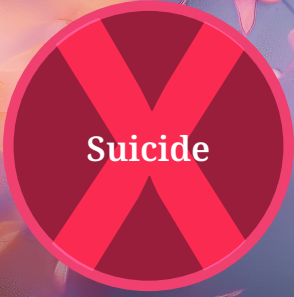
(Ecclesiastes 8:12)

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