SEARCH185

Vanity of Vanities

The Search for Heavenly Treasure

[Henry] Welcome to Search 185 Podcast. I am here with my co-host, Jody Czajkoski. How are we doing today, Jody?

Here at the Search 185 studio, our team looks forward to provide you content that has the potential to greatly impact your life. The message we want to deliver is that there are answers to our life's greatest questions and they all converge in this thing we call FAITH.

Today, we are going to be discussing this thing in life where our experiences of happiness or content just don't seem to last. We seem to find something in this life that satisfies, but then it vanishes and is replaced with disappointment, discontent or even anger. We just don't seem to be making any headway in this life . . . we cry out to God for answers and it seems like He's not there . . . but He is. He speaks to us through is Word, which is revealed through Scripture and the oral tradition of the Apostles.

The Word of God has something to say about this . . . we read in . . .

> **Ecclesiastes 1:2** *Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. 3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?*

[This word, “vanity” has the notion of something like vapor or breath with a focus on how brief it is and its lack of content]

> **Eccl 2:11**, *17, 20 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.*

17 So I hated life . . . I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because a man who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by a man who did not toil for it. This also is vanity …

[It seems like nothing that we do makes a difference.]

This scripture goes well with parable Jesus talked about in Luke 12:16- 21 where the rich man has some much grain from his harvest that he decides to tear down his barns and build bigger ones, but the Lord calls him a fool because the man is about to die and all his possessions will belong to someone else. Jesus wants us to lay up treasure in heaven not on earth.

What Is The Solution?

The Word of God offers powerful scriptures to combat the futility of this world by pointing to

The enduring truth found in Christ. The truth is in Jesus, and He promises to set you free from the futility of life apart from Him.

> **Jn 14:6** *I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.*

Paul urges believers to no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds, emphasizing that an escape from futility is possible being transforming our lives in Christ.

> **Ephesians 4:17***, 23 Now this I affirm and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds; but be renewed in the spirit of your minds.*

> **Philippians 3:19** *Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.*

By placing your hope in the Lord, we renew our strength, run without growing weary, and walk without fainting, finding true purpose beyond the fleeting nature of this world.

> **Isa 40:31** *but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

To “wait on the Lord” in the scriptures means to actively trust, hope, and anticipate His guidance and timing, rather than passively waiting. It involves a deep, personal relationship characterized by faith, patience, humility, and meekness, where one relies on the merits of Christ and surrenders their own plans to God's will. The Hebrew word

for "wait" in the Old Testament, such as in Isaiah 40, means to hope, expect, and to look for. This signifies a confident expectation in God's promises.

True meaning and purpose come from aligning with the eternal, not the temporal.

> **Colossians 3:1–2** *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."*

The fundamental purpose and meaning of life is to glorify God and enjoy fellowship with Him forever. This purpose is rooted in the belief that humans were created by God for a specific design and plan, not as an accident, but as part of His larger purpose. The ultimate goal is to live in a relationship with God, to love Him, which brings true and lasting joy, often referred to as the "abundant life." In addition, we are to love our neighbor. In a word, the meaning of life is to love as God loves.

Accept Life as it Comes

This is called “abandonment to Divine Providence,” or “Conformity of the human will to the Divine.” Our desires, wants and dreams should be subject to the phrase, “be it done to me according to you word.” (Luke 1:38)

Step 1 Detachment: Fasting, almsgiving,

> **Phil 3:7–8** *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing*

worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ

> **Col 3:2** *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

[Jody] “I like what the apostle John says in his first epistle . . .”

> **1 John 2:15–17** *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

Step 2 Enlightenment

This is when the mind and soul begin to be illuminated by the power of the Holy Spirit, because it has detached its desires from world and surrendered itself to God alone.

Step 3 Union with God

In this step, the illumination of the heart, mind and soul are now prepared to receive the most Holy God in a manner that is beyond human understanding. It is the most intimate experience this side of heaven that a human can engage in.

Life may seem vain (as much of Ecclesiastes expresses), but it finds meaning in reverence for God and righteous living.

We care called to be sons and daughters of the most High. And as such, we are to worship God and keep his commandments, which are tow fold: Love God and love one another. (Jn 13:34)

> **Ecclesiastes 12:13** *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

[We show the love of God by how we treat one another. The prophet Micah says . . .]

> **Micah 6:8** *He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Though this world is marked by futility, God has a purpose and an eternal hope beyond it.

> **Romans 8:18–21** *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God."*

Present trials are temporary. Eternal realities give them meaning.

> **2 Corinthians 4:16–18** *"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

Earthly status, success, or material value is nothing compared to life in Christ.

> **Philippians 3:7–8** *"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ."*

Human glory fades, but God’s word and promises endure.

> **1 Peter 1:24–25**

"For 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord abides forever.' That word is the good news which was preached to you."

And what is that Good News? That even though we crucified Jesus because of our sins, He still loves us enough to give his life as a ransom for our souls.

> **1 Pet 2:24** *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree [that is, the cross], that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

> **2 Cor 5:21** *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

For any of you that are listening to this podcast, we are here to tell you that God loves you. He cares about you and wants you to live life to the fullest. Turn to Him, call out to Him and ask Him to transform your life into a life of holiness and faith in Him.

Our present situation in life, our past and our future are in His hands. Ask for the Holy Spirit to dwell in your heart and surrender yourself to Him out of love and trust. Our God does not disappoint.