

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

“So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Chasing the Wind

Introduction: When I put cubes out for the cows, they spend more time pushing each other out of the way, than eating! When I put out hay for the horses, they will go from pile to pile to try and not let anybody else eat anything.

Point: There is a no win in comparison

So what do we do? How do we improve ourselves without falling into the trap of comparing ourselves to others.

Solomon was the wisest person who ever lived. He had more money than anyone in his time. His wives were prettier than anyone else's, his temple huge, King and Queens from all over the world came to him for advice.

Ecclesiastes 4

4 And I saw (Sit on the porch kind of guy) ***that all toil*** (work) ***and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another,*** (the thing that drives people in life is competition. Solomon saw people determining if they are ok based on what everyone else was doing.) “The I didn't even know I needed that ...until I SAWit principle”

We ask questions like is our marriage OK, and the first thing we do is look at marriages around us to see if ours is ok. It's the same with kids, we look at other peoples' kids to see if ours are ok...jobs, possessions, etc.

This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. (You can't catch the wind, there is no 8 second whistle, no finish line, no peace ...watching a dog chase his tail...even better if they don't have one...my dog, Cleotis chasing the flying birds, biting the rain drops, trying to pick up every stick at the same time!)

So you might say, “so should we not even try...should we just join the Amish and always wear black and avoid people?”

And Solomon answers us ...**5 Fools fold their hands and ruin themselves.** Solomon is not saying don't be ambitious. Solomon would say have you seen my temple (one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world) have you seen my gardens, 700 wives and 300 concubines? He says, “Only a fool does nothing.” The idea is if you do nothing you eventually self-destruct.

6 Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind. It's better to have one hand open, (the idea in Hebrew is that God can put in or take out anything from your hand he wants to. It is better to have one hand of things and be content with that than to have both hands full afraid you're going to spill some and be a wreck worried about it.

Concept: All you really have in this world is what is in your hands right now, and if both hands are full you can't pick anything that spills up or get anything new...in order to get that, I have to let go of this...

If you and I just learn that one idea from the Bible, it has a huge impact on our whole life.

7 Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. (Nobody to leave things to) **There was no end to his toil,** (he worked daylight to dark seven days a week and he was rich)

Yet his eyes were not content with his wealth, (he never looked in his wallet and had enough).

The man asked a great question...

“For whom am I toiling?” he asked, “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” The man looked up one day and said why am I doing all this, why is it that I can't stop and enjoy the things I have, why doesn't anything in life bring pleasure and who am I doing this for...Solomon would say, “It's because you're looking at other people and defining success by that and it's like chasing the wind, you're a dog chasing its tail...

This too is meaningless – a miserable business!

What or who are you using a measuring stick to determine if you're doing ok? The Bible is called the Canon –“measuring stick”

Is it your dad, your job, your possessions...?

Solomon says if you look to your right and left to determine if you're ok, you will never feel good about yourself.

Questions: Are you exhausted from trying to keep up with

I wish I didn't even know where they are going on vacation, awareness bring discontent...I didn't know we were poor until we went to town!

Are you broke from trying to keep with.....

Are you allowing what others have to keep you from enjoying what you have

Who would you secretly enjoy seeing fail...

You can't be a sincere follower of Jesus Christ and chase after the wind at the same time.

This is a very spiritual issue.

SO LET'S QUIT IT!

There is no win in comparison!

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.