

EXPERIENCES OF SOLOMON

By Keith Greer

"Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun." {Ecclesiastes 2:10-11}

A wise man once said, "**Those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past, are doom to repeat them!**" I believe this is exactly what God is telling us, when He said, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope " {Romans 15:4} Brethren, we need to study the lessons of the past!

Solomon was the son of David, and the final king before the nation of Israel was divided. When Solomon was picked by God, he was quite young. The Lord appeared to him in a dream, "At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, Ask! What shall I give you?" {1 Kings 3:5} What would you have asked for? Money? Power? Long life? Death of your enemies? Solomon requested WISDOM! "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" {1 Kings 3:9}

Solomon in asking for wisdom, greatly pleased God. In return, God gave him wisdom, plus all the other things Solomon did not ask for! We read that no man before, nor after, would have the wisdom he now possessed. Surely Solomon would be a great king!

Solomon tried it all— riches, power, women, building great houses, and all the things money could buy! Yet, when one reads the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon's conclusions are quite revealing! If one is living life, for all this material world has to offer, to repeat Solomon, "all is vanity and grasping for wind!" Guess Solomon would not agree with that saying, "You only go around once, grab all the gusto you can!"

"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} Wonder why so many do not read and heed the wisdom of Solomon? Especially brethren!

In my years as a gospel preacher, I've become more perplexed. Members work more, to get more materials so they can enjoy a high degree of prosperity. They spend little or no time with their spouse, children, brethren, and less with God! Homes, cars, boats, every new gadget on the market seems more important. Where are our hearts at? "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." {Matthew 6:19-21}

Could it be that God's people have forgotten the real source of happiness to be found in this life only resides in doing the things according to God's will? How many people are surrounded by "things" but yet have no true, lasting happiness in life. Sadly, the people in the world are not the only ones making this mistake – so are those who call themselves Christians.

Solomon found no pleasure or profit in this old world. He had the money and the ability to try it all. Will we fare better than he did? Why not benefit from the mistakes made by the wise king Solomon by getting it right – God first – everything else second! ***