

January 15, 2011  
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## **Monday**

**Eccl. 3:11** He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart.

The philosopher Blaise Pascal wrote: "There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus." Before him the theologian Augustine said, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." Solomon preceded them both and by the inspiration of the Spirit reveals the truth that God has set eternity in the heart of man and no one can be satisfied with merely earthly thoughts, accomplishments, or relationships. Indeed, God has gifted the soul with a restless yearning for Him that can be filled only by Jesus.

## **Tuesday**

**Eccl. 2:11** I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind.

Unless serving God is the purpose of your work, profession, employment, all your efforts are worthless! The scripture declares the stark reality of a life filled with labor but without the purpose of God. If labor merely serves to give you food or provides you wealth, its value ceases with your death. For what good has it really been? It is as a puff of wind -- no meaning, no purpose, no lasting benefit. But if you determine to work for the Lord every day, your work gains meaning and purpose. Paul writes, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men... It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." (Col. 3:23-24)

## **Wednesday**

**Eccl. 2:17** So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.

The restless searching of the soul is a constant reminder of our need for a real and vital relationship with God. But Christians and non-Christians alike find themselves trying to fill the restlessness with empty things and unrealistic expectations of others. The end of such quests is often tragic. Bad and hurtful relationships, empty and meaningless years, and pleasures that turn into pain *and worse*. Do you find a longing in your heart? Are you expecting someone else or something else to fill the void that only God can fill? Settle your hope upon the only one who can fill the longing, the restlessness, the void. Begin or renew your relationship with Jesus.

## **Thursday**

**Eccl. 3:16** Furthermore, I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness.

While sinful men reside upon the earth, injustice will continue. While working for justice is admirable, believers must understand that genuine, lasting justice will only come when Christ rules in our hearts and reigns on the earth. This does not mean that we should settle for injustice. No indeed you must strive to do justice personally, and work for justice legislatively and judicially, but while seeking the temporary justice of this world, you must not forget that men and women are lost, living condemned lives, and bound for hell without the intervening grace of God in Christ. The deeper need, the eternal need, is for grace and salvation.

## **Friday**

**Eccl. 3:17** I said to myself, "God will judge both the righteous and the wicked.

As a believer you would do well to remember that the greatest injustice of all time was instigated by God at the cross. At the cross sinners, like you and me, were declared guiltless while Jesus was declared sin. "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21) We do not truly want nor could we stand genuine justice; we would perish in judgment. You and I, as well as everyone we know, deserve death and hell. Work for human justice (fairness in the world). But work harder for grace.