

"The Emptiness of Greatness"
Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

*"And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, **there was no more breath in her.**" (1 Kings 10:4-5); "For she (the queen of Sheba) came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here." (Matthew 12:42b); "And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba...all the days of Solomon." (1 Kings 4:25)*

"Solomon drank the fullest cup of earth's best joy and his conclusion was vanity." (Charles Bridges)

- **The Emptiness of Greatness:** *"Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 2:11)*
 - *"I have acquired **great wisdom**, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me..." (Ecclesiastes 1:16)*
 - *"And my heart has had **great experience** of wisdom and knowledge." (Ecclesiastes 1:16)*
 - *"I made **great works**. I built houses and planted vineyards...gradens and parks...and pools." (Ecclesiastes 2:4-6)*
 - *"I had also **great possessions** of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem." (Ecclesiastes 2:7)*
 - *"So I **became great** and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem." (Ecclesiastes 2:9)*
 - *"And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure..." (Ecclesiastes 2:10)*
- **The Danger of Greatness:**
 - *"Only he must not acquire many horses..."*
 - *"Only he must not acquire many wives for himself..."*
 - *"Nor shall he acquire for himself excessive gold and silver..."*
 - *"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law...And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them." (Deuteronomy 17:18-19; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)*
- **The Proper Use of Greatness (And Poverty): Philippians 4:11-13**
 - As Christians we can be content with very little (1 Timothy 6:8) and we can be discontent with very much (Ecclesiastes 5:10).
 - We wage war against the love of this world by giving generously (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) when we have abundance and being joyfully content when we have little (Phillipians 4:11).
 - It is only through Christ that I can have the strength to magnify His worth in riches and in poverty. (Psalm 16:11; Romans 8:17)

Praying for pastors in general:

- For a strong God glorifying marriage.
- A deeper prayer life, greater desire for prayer.
- For an ever-growing humility, making no room for pride.
- A greater appreciation for their own salvation; to be in awe that God saved them.
- Growing in thankfulness and generosity; desiring to give more of self not less.
- That they would finish well; serving Christ zealously all the way to their final day!

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** *Pastor Appreciation Month:* Please see the September Newsletter for more information about our monthly donation collection.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch THIS Sunday, September 20th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign up to bring something for the meal. We invite EVERYONE to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us!

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Children's Ministry **AND** the Cleaning Ministry are looking for volunteers to join their ministries. If you are a Church Member and you would like to join the Children's Ministry, or have questions about volunteering in this ministry, please see Katie Sapp! If you are interested in joining the Cleaning Ministry, or have questions about volunteering for this ministry, please see Krystal.

★*For all other announcements, please see the September Newsletter!*