

“Meaningful or Meaningless?”
Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

Vain-glory refers to excessive pride or boastfulness in one's achievements, abilities, or appearance. It is a form of vanity that seeks recognition and admiration from others, often without regard to the glory of God. In the biblical context, it is an elevation of self above God and others.

“To those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory (God’s glory) and honor (from God, not man) and immortality (reward/glorification), He will give **eternal life**; but for those who are self-seeking (no care for God’s glory/renown) and do not obey the truth (rebellion), but obey unrighteousness (a slave to sin), there will be **wrath and fury**.” (Romans 2:7-8)

“For to the one who **pleases Him** God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy...”

“But to the sinner He has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who **pleases God**.”

- We all strive for glory or significance or to be remembered. “There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things...” (Ecclesiastes 1:11)
 - **Earthly wisdom over foolishness (2:12-17):**
 - “For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.” (Ecclesiastes 1:18)
 - “For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten.” (Ecclesiastes 2:16)
 - “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise...” (1 Corinthians 1:27)
 - **Hard work and stewardship over laziness (2:18-23):**
 - “For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest.” (Ecclesiastes 2:23)
 - “Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity...” (Ecclesiastes 2:11)
 - “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24)
 - **Joy in stuff over Joy in God (2:24-26):**
 - “For apart from (God) who can eat or who can have enjoyment?...but to the sinner He has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who **pleases God**.” (Ecclesiastes 2:25-26)
 - “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Announcements:

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

★**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Men, the monthly Men's Breakfast is THIS Saturday, September 26th, at the Big Apple Café — Log Pond location, at 7am. If you plan on attending, please let Pastor Zach know (740)618-0739.

★**CHURCH GAME NIGHT:** Our Monthly Church Game Night is THIS Sunday, September 27th, Andy's house (1062 National Road SE; Hebron), starting at 5pm. Please bring your favorite board game or card game to play, and a food item to share with everyone. EVERYONE is invited to join us for this great time of fun and fellowship!

★**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!*