

God Knows Best

by Chuck Smith

Pastor Chuck Smith emphasizes the futility of earthly pursuits and the importance of trusting God's wisdom for true fulfillment.

Duration: 25:04

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 6:1

Topics: "God"

Description

In this sermon, Pastor Chuck Smith discusses the common evil of a man who is given riches and wealth by God but is unable to enjoy them. He uses the example of a man who lacks nothing but a stranger ends up benefiting from his wealth. Solomon, the author of Ecclesiastes, observes that no matter how much labor a person puts in to satisfy their desires, their appetite is never filled. Pastor Chuck emphasizes that earthly goals and desires will always leave us wanting more, just like the woman of Samaria who thirsted again after drinking water. He encourages listeners to seek fulfillment in God rather than material possessions.

Transcript

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you With His Spirit and His love Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
Oh, let Him have the things that hold you And His Spirit like a dove Will descend upon your life And make you whole
Now with today's message, here's Pastor Chuck.

Solomon declares, there is an evil which I have seen under the sun and it's a rather common evil and that is a man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor so that really he lacks for nothing of all that his soul may desire yet God does not give him the power to partake of it but a stranger eats it this is an emptiness and it's an evil disease that a man should have wealth and power and everything he wants and yet lacks the capacity to enjoy it, to partake of it and Solomon said it's something that he observed as not a rarity but a rather common thing I was interested in some of the remarks of Donald Trump as he spoke really of the excitement was in the pursuit but there was disappointment in the attainment that once it was attained he was bored with it it was just the excitement

of the chase and Solomon pretty much came to that same conclusion too and I think that when a person, you know, we say Oh, well I could just have, well we're still in the chase and there is the excitement of the chase but there is an unfulfillment in the accomplishment and a person has a lot but yet doesn't have the capacity to fully enjoy it it's an evil, Solomon said he really passes his inheritance on to strangers yet a

stranger eats it and that is he really has no natural children to pass it on to it becomes the inheritance of strangers you remember Abraham was a very wealthy man God had blessed Abraham but prior to the birth of his sons he was complaining because the only heir was his servant, Eliezer and all of the great wealth would pass on to a stranger, that is someone who is not

begotten by me but then he goes on to say if a man begets a hundred children now, I don't know how many children Solomon had no doubt he had a lot I mean if you've got 700 wives you're bound to have a lot of kids his son Rehoboam had 88 children, that's a pretty good number of kids to have around the house there is another king that is mentioned in the Bible Ahab, he had even more than Rehoboam and for the wealthy kings they had of course their harems and all and so they had a lot of children if a man begets a hundred children and he lives so many years that the days of his years be many and his soul is not filled with good and also that he has no burial he's sort of forgotten in death I say that an untimely birth is better than he, that is a child that is stillborn is better off than

a man who has a hundred kids and lives many years but his soul isn't filled with good for he cometh in with vanity and he departs in darkness and his name shall be covered with darkness moreover he hath not seen the sun nor known anything and this hath more rest than the other, he's talking about a child that's born dead comes in with vanity, departs in darkness he will go nameless, they don't name the child however he has not seen the sun, he's not known anything but he has more rest than the man who lives a long life with a hundred kids, I can imagine so yea, though he live a thousand years twice told or you live to be two thousand years old yet he hath seen no good do not all go to one place, all of us go to the grave now he observes that all of the labor of a man is for his mouth and

yet the appetite is not filled we work to satisfy our own desires all of the labor that a person puts in is to accomplish and fulfill goals, desires, I want and you can fill in the blank and therefore I work and we labor to satisfy our desire for things and yet the appetite is never satisfied have you ever noticed how that again I want that new car and I go down and I price it out and I really can't quite afford it but the guy is pressuring me and he gets creative financing or whatever and so you think, well yea, if you know, I cut off on this and if I get an extra job and all then you know, I can afford to get it, you know, and so you sign up and here you are driving this fancy car and oh man it's great for how long no matter how fancy a car it is five years from now you're going to

be tired of it you're going to be looking for something else all of a man's labor is for his appetite and yet he's never filled Jesus said to the woman of Samaria you drink of this water and you are going to thirst again I think that we would be wise if we would write that over every earthly goal that we have oh, if I just had this, alright, right over the top of it drink of this water but you will thirst again we are never filled all of our labor goes to our appetite but we are never filled for what hath the wise more than the fool and what hath the poor that knoweth to walk before the living better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire to have something there's a proverb that sort of goes along with this, it's a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush better is the

sight of the eyes, something that you actually have is better than the wandering of the desire, oh I wish, I wish, I wish, you know for this also is vanity, that is the wandering of desire and it's frustration vexation of spirit and that which hath been is named already and it is known that it is man neither may he contend with him who is mightier than he he speaks about the frailty of man how that we often find ourselves in that uncomfortable position of seeking to contend with God there's a scripture that's in Isaiah says, woe unto him who strives with his maker now a lot of people find themselves sort of striving with God I think that all

of us at one time or another in our lifetime have found ourselves at odds with God striving with God couple of things that I might note about a

person who strives with God, number one how can you hope to win striving with him that is mightier than he contending with him secondly if you do win you've really lost if you strive with God and you prevail then you have really lost because God's way is the best thing that could ever happen to you our striving with God comes from our limited understanding as he points out in verse 12 for who knows what is good for man in this life you think you know what's good for you but as he says who can tell what is going to be after him you don't know the future you don't know what the future holds and so we find ourselves striving with God because we really have in our mind our ideas of what is best for me but I truly don't know what's best for me but I contend with God because things are

happening that I think oh this is horrible Lord why would you allow this to happen to me and I contend with God because I cannot see and I do not know the purposes of God because I don't know the future I don't know what the future holds in the early years of my ministry I found myself striving with God so much my wife and I were talking the other day and we were talking about being poor and we said well we were always broke but we were never poor poor is a state of mind I think we didn't have any money to speak of we got \$15 a week from the church and I decided to be a George Mueller and live on faith trusting God to supply the needs of the my wife and I and there was just the two of us at the time and God was faithful he came through we didn't go without a single meal now we came close

the faith was tested but usually the post office came through we had a post office box there in Prescott Arizona and twice a day they would deliver the mail and usually in the afternoon we got the mail from out of town and it usually they dropped it in the boxes about 2.30 in the afternoon and I would walk a block over to the post office in the afternoon when we needed money for dinner we'd just get the letter that was there that we knew would be there had five dollars in it, ten dollars in it, whatever and we'd go out and eat dinner get dinner and we got to where we started depending on that because \$15 didn't go very far and so this one day we were broke didn't have any money for dinner so we went over to the post office and we waited as the fellow was dropping the mail we got there

just a little early he hadn't quite got to our box and we watched the mail being you know through the little glass coming into the box coming right down to ours and then we saw him go right past ours didn't put anything in it and Kay said honey he probably has it in his packet there he just missed it he's got to have something for us you know go over to the window and call to him and see if he you know just didn't miss us and so I went over and I said sir you didn't put anything in our box and he said I don't have anything for you this afternoon Mr.

Smith and Kay said ask him to be sure and I said are you sure and so he went through the stack he had there he said no nothing for you today sorry so Kay said what are we going to do I said well we'll go back to the apartment and we'll see just how much we do have for dinner and we went through her purses my coat pockets and the dresser drawers and we came up with 37 cents for dinner and so we headed for the market with 37 cents accepting the challenge of wondering how nutritious a dinner can you get for 37 cents it was a real challenge and so we got a couple of carrots a can of Van Camp's pork and beans which at that time was only 16 cents number two size can and I forget what else some green vegetables so we'd have our protein with the pork and beans we'd have the yellow vegetable and

green vegetable and we went up to the counter and the guy totaled it up and he said 37 cents I had pulled it and laid it all out and we were rather proud of ourselves it's going to be nutritious and by tomorrow afternoon the post office will come through you know and we'll be able to eat regularly again as we headed for the door the fellow called us he said hey kids come back here a minute he said there's there's something I've been intending to do for the longest time and I just keep forgetting and he reached into the counter and pulled out a gift certificate for \$10 and handed it to us so I said to Kay let's go over to the meat case and pick out a couple of T-bones we had T-bone steak that night we figured as long as the Lord's treating you know might as well eat T-bone but he was

teaching us I was complaining it's hard to be broke I couldn't get things for my car that my car needed I needed an air cleaner for my car there were dusty roads in Prescott couldn't get an air cleaner didn't have money for it boy that's a real luxury you know that just didn't fit in the budget and so actually I ruined the engine on my car sucking in that Arizona dust and it just really wiped out the engine tough days important days days in which I was contending with him who was mightier than I over the lot over the difficulties that we were going through the days in which I was learning to trust in God learning the faithfulness of God learning that God would not fail and they were so important for what God had in mind for the future you see I didn't know what the future held who knows

what is going to come God knows and so many times our contention most the time our contention with God comes over the fact that we don't know what is really good for us and we don't know what's going to take place in the future and thus we find ourselves contending with God over our circumstances that we don't fully understand and so he speaks about contending with him that is mightier than he there are many things that just increase the emptiness so why are you any better for you really don't know what's good for man in this life all of the days of the vain life he spends as a shadow we know that life is short measured by days if you don't know that yet you'll know it when you get old the older you get the quicker things go by the shorter life seems when I was a kid it seemed like life

was forever now I look back and I say man it went fast where is it gone he spends it as a shadow for who can tell a man what will be after him under the sun so watch it when you're contending with God a good name is better than precious ointment now precious ointment was a very important thing in that eastern culture you remember that the woman came to the house where Jesus was eating dinner and she was anointing his feet with precious ointment and Judas Iscariot said why this waste this could have been sold for a lot of money and we could have put it in the treasury and given it to the poor people now in Jesus Christ Superstar they made Judas a big hero over this statement that's because they didn't read the whole scripture the scripture goes on to tell us Judas said this not because he

was really interested in the poor but he was the one who was keeping the purse for the group and he had been thieving out of the purse Jesus Christ Superstar didn't tell you that about Judas tried to make a hero out of Judas and Jesus being very cold and callous towards people's needs accepted the extravagance but Judas the hero objected to this extravagance but a good name is better to be chosen than precious ointment it's so important to have a good name we don't stress that with kids anymore the importance of a good reputation and the day of death is better than the day of one's birth interesting observation from an old man who is jaded it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting for that is the end of all men and the living will lay it to his heart that

is going to the house of mourning for one who has died the day of death better than the day of one's birth better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting they always had a feast at the birth of a

child for that is the end of all men the living will lay it to his heart for sorrow is better than laughter for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better we'll return with more of our verse-by-verse venture through the Bible in our next broadcast as Pastor Chuck continues his study through the book of Ecclesiastes and we do hope you'll make plans to join us but right now I'd like to remind you that if you'd like to secure a copy of today's message simply order Ecclesiastes chapter 6 verse 1 when visiting the word for today .org and while you're there we

encourage you to browse the many additional biblical resources by Pastor Chuck you can also subscribe to the word for today podcast or sign up for our email subscription once again all this can be found at the word for today .org if you wish to call our toll-free number is 1-800-272-WORD and our office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pacific time again that's 1-800-272-9673 and for those of you preferring to write our mailing address is the word for today P.O. Box 8000 Costa Mesa California 92628 and now on behalf of the word for today we'd like to thank all of you who share in supporting this ministry with your prayers and financial support and be sure to join us again next time as Pastor Chuck continues his verse by verse study through the Bible that's right here on the next edition of the word for today now once again here's Pastor Chuck today's closing comments may the Lord bless you as you walk with Jesus this way may you experience the touch of his love and his power upon your life and may you have that beautiful consciousness of God as you submit your ways unto him to walk in his path for his glory as Easter is approaching the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is on the hearts of Christians everywhere and how they might witness this beautiful story to their loved ones with this in mind the word for today would like to present a special MP3 entitled My Redeemer Lives that includes 14 reassuring messages to answer the significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and a life that should bring hope to everyone also included as a special presentation of the crucifixion from a doctor's perspective as well as a powerful salvation message shared by Pastor Chuck and when you order My Redeemer Lives MP3 will include a free CD by Pastor Chuck to witness to your loved ones that Jesus is indeed the Messiah this CD entitled A Risen Love clearly presents the evidence to help others make a decision that will impact their immediate and eternal future for more information contact the word for today at 800-272-9673 or visit us online at the word for today dot org this program has been sponsored by the word for today in Costa Mesa California

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