

RAMBLINGS OF YOUR PREACHER

I do not know where to begin today. The tragedy of Friday's events is still troubling me. I had not known Barbara as long as many of you but in the almost 5 years that Frieda and I and the family have been in Pinole I had often had occasion to meet with her and we have had her and the kids in our house. When Trionne first called me Friday to let me know of Barbara's death my first thought was the series of lessons that I have been doing Sunday evenings on the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon has left us a book to help us understand the vanity of life "under the sun." How life without and apart from God is meaningless and "striving after wind."

Today the world seems to have much to offer in the glamorizing of drugs, alcohol, fornication, adultery, homosexuality and even violence. Today to take a stand for good and to not accept these things in others is to be narrow minded and mean spirited. To take a stand for what is right in accordance with the Bible is to be some sort of religious fanatic. Every day though someone dies a drug related death. Every day someone dies or suffers from sexual promiscuity. Almost always though it is someone we don't know. Friday that was not the case. So how do we in this country try to solve these problems? We hand out clean needles to the drug addicts, we give our children condoms and we blame the guns and other instruments of violence. We will never solve the problems of drug addiction, abortion, teenage pregnancy and the shootings that happen in this nation every day until we are willing to understand that these things are just symptoms of the real problem. That is the fact that the moral decay seen in this nation is the problem. When we attempt to solve the problem by handing out condoms or needles we are doing nothing more than trying to cure the disease by telling the patient to continue in the same action that got him or her in trouble in the first place. The answer is as the "Preacher" told us in Eccl 12:13. "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, **because this applies to every person.**" NAS

One might be asking themselves what good can come from this tragic death that has hit this family? If nothing else comes from this tragedy I hope that our young people can see the problems of life "under the sun" without God in your life. Life is full of ups and downs and it is so difficult to walk through this life without the help we have in God and His Son. Jesus promised his disciples "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt 28:20 NAS) The Lord has promised to help us through this life and He has given us several things to help us:

1. The **CHURCH**, is the greatest support group that has ever existed. Christians are here to aid and assist one another. Phil 2:3-4 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **let each of you regard one another as more important than himself**; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others." NAS
2. **PRAYER** is a gift of God. It is the way that we as His children can talk to Him. 1 Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, **And His ears attend to their prayer**, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." NAS
3. The **SCRIPTURES** are given to us to help us know what God expects of us. 2 Tim 3:16-17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof,

for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. NAS

Let us help Walt, Trionne, Crystal and Gracie in this time of need and let us help our young to understand the vanity of life “under the sun” without God.

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