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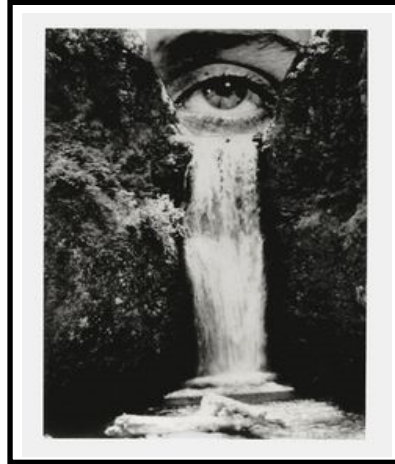
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# “ENJOY NOW...CRY LATER”

It is said that “you are what you drive”. Clearly that statement is worth considerable push back. However, in the auto culture that seems to have saturated society, a lot can be told about the owner of a vehicle by the bumper stickers that festoon it. Stop and think about it for just a moment, a bumper or window sticker was the result of a purposeful decision. The sticker was selected, then the sticker was placed in a conspicuous spot on the vehicle. The purchaser/owner is declaring for all to see a shared sentiment with whatever depiction and or slogan the sticker is touting. Recently a sticker was seen on a vehicle with a design, best left not being described, then the word “Enjoy Now...Cry Later.” A clear message of hedonism was being conveyed.



“Kick the can down the road” seems to be the order of the day for the vast majority, when it comes to matters of life and the pending judgment, which according to 2Corinthians 5:10 will face. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”* Think back to the bumper sticker, “Enjoy Now...Cry Later”. Jesus addresses the “Cry Later” part in Matthew 13:49-50. *“So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take the wicked from among the righteous, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* Think logically, with such plain teaching there is no reason why anyone should “Cry Later”, that is IF they have taken control of self.

Solomon, points out in the book of Ecclesiastes that God wants us to have pleasure in life. However, not to the level where it moves into

the realm of sin. It is possible to find true pleasure in life and not to feel guilty (see Eccl. 2:24-2-6; 3:12-14; 9:7-10). While we know Moses rejected the “*passing pleasures of sin*”, that doesn’t mean all pleasure is sinful. Hedonism clearly crosses the line as evidenced in passages such as Galatians 5:19-21. It is sad to note that apparently Solomon did not subscribe to his own teaching regarding enjoyment of life, while not moving into sin. Read over 1Kings11:1-13 to understand where he was toward the end of his life.

“Enjoy Now...Cry Later”

It is interesting that early on Solomon seemed to have “experimented” with every conceivable way of extracting pleasure from life. *“And all that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure.”* (Eccl. 2:10 He saw that such a pursuit was vanity and striving after

wind. He was aware that one day he would stand before God and have to give an account of himself (see Eccl. 12:13-14). So why did he allow his heart to be turned away? Only God knows the answer. The larger question is why do we make choices that while enjoyable now may indeed produce a torrent of tears later?

*“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling choosing you, for as long as you practice these things you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly, supplied to you.”* (2Peterr 1:10-11) The “these things” of which Peter speaks are the virtues one should embrace and practice which are seen in the previous verses three through nine. If this is the course one selects for life then there would be no need for tears, unless of course they are tears of joy. (wbe)

THE BULWARK