

THE BULWARK

LIFE: WHAT A JOURNEY



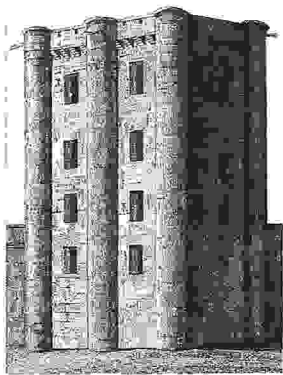
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"Mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that you may tell it to the generation following"
Psalms 48:13

What is the meaning of LIFE? If you go to Merriman-Webster Dictionary you will find no less than twenty definitions for life as a noun and at least three when life is used as an adjective. What is kind of humorous is that when one seeks out the "meaning of life", it really doesn't give the "meaning of life". It may provide a definition for the word life, but does it convey exactly what is the "meaning of life"? Is it a matter of semantics? Philosophers have long postulated with respect to the purpose and "meaning of life", but alas their vapid speculations, fall far short of providing an acceptable answer.

While the cartoon seen above offers one approach as to how to navigate life, Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes lays out a complete panorama of life. *"I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with."* (Ecclesiastes 1:13) From this point on he delves into life and all its subtlety. Ultimately he comes to find, *"the conclusion, when all has been heard, is; fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to very person. Because God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil."* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

The profundity of what Solomon discovers and shares in his writings, is something all should explore and embrace. He talks about finding a balance in life, by referring to God thirty-seven times and thirty-seven times he mentions the vanity found in life. In fact Solomon lists ten vanities in life, which consists of the vanity of human wisdom, human labor, human purpose, envy, greed, fame, coveting, wealth, recognition, and frivolity. Life is more than such transitory pursuits.

In the second chapter of Ecclesiastes, verses twelve through seventeen, a fact of life is set forth, the fool and the wise man will die. In fact all will die. Sobering to be sure. Want more truth? *"As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand."* (5:15) Yes, bad things will happen to good people (see 8:14; 9:11-12), sadly that's part of life!

But don't despair, because there is enjoyment to be found in life (see 5:18-19; 8:15: 9:9). God gave us the precious gift of life and He wants us to live life to the fullest, while preparing for that which is to come. A life that is in balance with our Heavenly Father. (wbe)