

Grace's Sermon 31st July Brancepeth

Life under the sun is meaningless it is meaningless,

the writer in ecclesiastics says that he has investigated and found that everything that is done under the sun it is vanity it is meaningless and pointless.

Life under the sun is life without God

It is an unhappy business, to seek and search out all that is under heaven because it is full of unforgiveness, anger, despair, greed, restlessness, stress, and anxiety to list but a few.

We hear news and read stories of persecution, war, racism, discrimination, resulting in endless life's being ruined

The more we look for things under the Sun,

The more they turn to be like chasing the wind,

It is all meaningless, vanity, pointless.

The parable of the rich man is one of the examples of life led under the sun

It tells us of a man who had everything

he yielded so much crops that he did not have space for it,

he decided that he would build a bigger barn

to store all his excess so he can then sit and enjoy it.

He did not think to share it

he spent all his time working to build that bigger barn

and by the time he finished it was too late.

Mathew 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world

And forfeits himself?

To live a life under the sun without God is Meaningless.

Life under the sun does not need to be meaningless

Lif under the sun can be meaningful

Colossians 3

Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Therefore, put to death whatever belongs to earthly nature

Putting to death our earthly nature starts by

Seeking first the kingdom of God,

Jesus came down in human form

And brough heaven to earth,

So that we are no longer separated from direct connection with God,

through his death and resurrection,

we have been given a new life in him.

2corinthinas 5.17-18

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (Corinthians 5:17-18)

When we are transformed in Christ, we begin to see things in a new way,
We are able to handle life challenges

not as the world does but with strength, courage, and hope

The transforming nature of Christ helps us put to death those things us that are earthly,

Greed, evil desires, impurity, anger, segregation, racism and renews our hearts,

Gives meaning and fulfilment to our earthly existence.

We are changed from the inside,

Our earthly desires, and believes begins to fade away,

and we are made new.

A woman on the radio spoke of how she was transformed when she became a Christian,

She was full of hate and anger and felt worthless

But when she met Jesus, she was changed

She said she felt an overwhelming sense of peace

A desire to know more of Jesus

And to remain connected to him

To live life above the sun

I believe we can all testify as to how Christ transformed us when we became his followers, be it immediately or gradually.

Meaningful life in Christ enables us to exalt each other, share in our abundance, and find joy in all we do.

BUT,

“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness,

for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Store up your treasure in heaven.

Be vigilant and consistent in seeking things above

Because all is vanity / Meaningless, Pointless on earth without Christ.

focus on things in heaven,

so that when Christ who is your life is revealed,

Then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Because life is Meaningful under the sun when we focus on things above.

When we focus on God.

Amen.