

MAN'S PROBLEM

God's Solution

A study of man's age-old search for satisfaction and peace of mind. Discovering the reason for the emptiness that plagues mankind is the first step toward finding that one, wonderful solution that everyone is searching for, whether they realize it or not...

Man's Problem...

*“I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure...
“Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to
achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind...”*

- King Solomon

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NIV) -The Bible

These sad words were written by one who would seem to be the least likely man on earth to have such a hopeless outlook on life. King Solomon, ruler in Israel about 1000 years before Christ, was one of the wisest and wealthiest men that has ever lived. Yet, in spite of his wisdom, he turned away from God, and, when he sought to find happiness and contentment through the pleasures and possessions this world has to offer, he was greatly disappointed.

4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees...

8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man. 9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labour. 11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11 (NIV)

As one observes these writings of King Solomon found in the Bible, the society in which we live, or for that matter, the entire course of human history, it is evident that most people lead empty, unfulfilled lives. They sense that they are missing something and spend their entire lives attempting to satisfy this feeling of incompleteness through wealth, popularity, possessions, illicit sex, a career or any other venture which seems to offer fulfillment and satisfaction.

When these pursuits fail to provide the answer, and they always do, one is left confused and depressed with seemingly nowhere to turn as he continues his search for contentment and peace of mind.

At this point, some may turn to religion, but, sadly, many are led astray by the false teachings of those religious groups that do not truly base their teachings on the Bible. Others, instead of being led astray, are understandably turned off to spiritual matters altogether by the wide variety of empty, man-made religion he sees or by the many “religious” hypocrites that are all too common.

To hide from the emptiness, one may rely on alcohol or drugs; but, while they provide a short relief from the pain, it is quickly evident that they do nothing to relieve one’s problems. Instead, they only make them worse, fast. Realizing this, one may turn to other forms of escape such as television, movies, collecting, music, sports, or reading. Whatever he chooses, it may help him forget his sorrow for a time, but the distraction is short-lived, and the nagging void in his life remains.

Days turn into months and months into years, and the emptiness of one's life becomes increasingly apparent as he grows older. Friends and family which he once could count on change, move, or pass away; hobbies which once occupied his spare time lose their novelty, and goals which he has pursued all his life, having been achieved, leave him unfulfilled. For some, escaping from the futility and sorrow of life becomes more important than life itself, and, along with over one million others every year, they commit suicide.

Every man is born with this inner restlessness, and the search for the "meaning of life" is universal. The root problem behind this terrible sense of emptiness in the heart of man goes all the way back to when Adam and Eve sinned against God. This is because, ever since that day, all of us are born with a sinful nature, which, along with the acts of sin we commit every day, prevents us from having this relationship with God we were created to have.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God...

Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23 (KJV)

God's Solution...

All life ultimately comes from God, and one's spiritual life consists of a personal relationship with Him. Just as physical death is the separation of a man's spirit from his body, spiritual death is the separation of one's spirit from God because of sin.

Without a relationship with God, man is incomplete, and no experience or possession this world has to offer will satisfy the emptiness he feels inside. He feels this emptiness because he is spiritually dead, separated from God by his sin. Worst of all, if nothing is done about this sin that separates him from God, he is doomed to spend all of eternity separated from God in hell - a place created by God as an eternal punishment and confinement for Satan and the other angels, now referred to as demons, who followed him in his rebellion against God.

Any happiness man may enjoy outside of God's love will be short-lived and hollow, and all of one's greatest achievements will be meaningless if he is not at peace with Him. It is because of this terrible situation that mankind is in that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to become a man and to take the penalty for our sins upon Himself...

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.

I Peter 3:18 (KJV)

Many people hope to get into Heaven by “living a good life” or by adhering to a list of religious rituals; but, if man was capable of “earning” his way to Heaven, there would have been no reason for Christ to die for our sins...

I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

Galatians 2:21 (NIV)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV)

Because Jesus has paid the penalty for our sin, however, God is now able to offer you complete and permanent forgiveness as well as an eternal home in Heaven. All that He requires is that you go to Him in prayer and...

1. **Admit** your sinfulness and your need for His forgiveness.
2. **Acknowledge** that Jesus paid the penalty for all of your sin on the cross.
3. **Ask**, with a repentant heart*, for God's forgiveness and for Him to come into your life and take control.

*(a repentant heart is one that is committed to turn away from sin with the strength God promises to provide)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:9 (KJV)

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy.

Proverbs 28:13 (KJV)

If you accept God's offer, He promises you the joy of knowing your sins are forgiven and the assurance of being able to look forward to spending the rest of forever on a new earth where there will be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain (**Revelation 21:1-6**). This forgiveness cannot be lost, but this does not leave one free to live a sinful life, for God will not allow His children to stray without going after them. He will convict their hearts of sin, discipline them if necessary, and, sadly, may even have to take some home to Heaven early to keep their bad example from turning others away from Him (**Heb. 12:1-6, 13:5, Deuteronomy 32:48-52, Romans 6:15-16**).

God does not want anyone to face the penalty for sin which we all deserve, but desires that all of us would accept His free offer of forgiveness so that we can live under His guidance and blessing here on earth and spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

If we choose not to accept His offer, we choose to spend a miserable existence here on earth, destroying our short life with the sinful tendencies over which we have no power in and of ourselves to control. Then, we will spend all of eternity separated from God in hell as we pay the penalty of our sin ourselves - The decision is up to us (**Revelation 20:10-15**).

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:36 (KJV)

As mentioned, this is not God's will for anyone...

The Lord... is not willing that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance.

II Peter 3:9 (KJV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (KJV)

God never intended for us to live outside of His love and protection, and life can never be complete without a relationship with Him. That emptiness man feels in his heart, that sense that he is "missing something" is the result of God drawing him to Himself - letting him know that he is missing the most important thing in life, a relationship with his Creator. If you sense this emptiness in your heart, the remedy is only a prayer away.

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