

LIVING LIFE BACKWARD

PART 5 OF 10: VERIFY YOUR VALUES

Ecclesiastes 5 ♦ Pastor Dean Lancaster ♦ March 2, 2025

Taking inventory of our values is necessary and should be done at regular intervals...like health check-ups or oil changes. The things that really count in life need to be visited and remembered.

Don't rob the Lord

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 *As you enter the house of God, keep your ears open and your mouth shut. It is evil to make mindless offerings to God. Don't make rash promises, and don't be hasty in bringing matters before God. When you make a promise to God, don't delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him. It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it. Don't let your mouth make you sin. Talk is cheap, like daydreams and other useless activities. Fear God instead.*

We are to be ready to hear and obey the Word of God.

We should value honesty before God, not rationalizing or bargaining.

Rash pronouncements to God can bring us sorrow.

Don't rob others

Ecclesiastes 5:8-9 *Don't be surprised if you see a poor person being oppressed by the powerful and if justice is being miscarried throughout the land. For every official is under orders from higher up, and matters of justice get lost in red tape and bureaucracy. Even the king milks the land for his own profit!*

The poor will be oppressed, we are to avoid this.

The government will waste resources, we are to expect this.

Humans acting in sin should not surprise us.

These are warnings to avoid the ways of the world.

Luke 12:33-34

Don't rob yourself

Ecclesiastes 5:10-17 *Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! There is another serious problem I have seen under the sun. Hoarding riches harms the saver. We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us. And this, too, is a very serious problem. People leave this world no better off than when they came. Throughout their lives, they live under a cloud—frustrated, discouraged, and angry.*

Several of the myths we hold about wealth will rob us of God's blessings.

Hoarding is harmful to our health because we will lose it all eventually.

Trust in temporary things harms our ability to be satisfied and enjoy the momentary gifts from God.

If we ignore God, or de-value worship, we will not enjoy this life as God wants. **Matthew 6:19-20**

Take this with you...

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 *Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life. And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God. God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past.*

God wants us to find our joy in His provisions to us.

God wants us to be satisfied with what we have and where we are.

Trusting God now will allow us to enjoy all the riches of Heaven later.

Colossians 3:1-2

Worship of God prevents us from becoming despondent with our past losses.

Our values will direct our hearts and actions.