

A MAN AND HIS FAITH



SESSION 5: PURSUIT OF GOD

FIRST THOUGHTS

ORIGINAL DESIGN

GENESIS 1:27

So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.

ECCLESIASTES 3:11

... He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:22

... Who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

CORRUPTION OF DESIRE

ROMANS 1

They know the truth about God because He has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

FAITHFUL DETACHMENT

1 CORINTHIANS 7

Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

PAINFUL PURSUIT

MATTHEW 19

Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" "Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" the man asked. And Jesus replied: "You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself." "I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?" Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What are the two things that you pursue instead/ahead of God?

Why is it so easy to over-attach to this world and not pursue God?

What will I be like in 20 years if I stay on my current path?

What are two actions I can take this week to redirect my energy towards Him?