

Don't Waste Your Life

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- I. Introduction
 - a. Watching the Olympics is great
 - i. But sometimes I wonder what could have been if I had pursued a different course
 - ii. Could I have been best in the world at something?
 - iii. Have I wasted my life by focusing on the wrong things?
 - b. We only have one life, we don't want to waste it
 - i. So should consider, what is really worth pursuing about all other things?
 - ii. What is our highest good?
 - c. Ecclesiastes
 - i. Solomon considered that question in the book of Ecclesiastes
 - ii. What is man's highest good? Eccl 6:12
 - iii. Many things that men and women dedicate their lives to, aren't really worth it
 - iv. They are vanity, vain, empty, void, worthless and a waste – Eccl 1:1-3
- II. Things that cannot be our highest good
 - a. These are not bad things
 - i. We should value and appreciate them
 - ii. But they are not good enough to the central purpose and aim of our lives
 - b. Wisdom
 - i. Good – Eccl. 2:13; 7:12; 12:12
 - ii. But not good enough – Eccl. 1:12-18
 - c. Pleasure
 - i. Good – Eccl. 8:15
 - ii. But not good enough – Eccl. 2:1-11
 - d. Wealth
 - i. Good - 5:18-19; 7:12
 - ii. But not good enough – 5:10-17
 - e. Companionship
 - i. Good – 9:9
 - ii. But not good enough
 - f. Justice
 - i. Good - 3:16-17; 8:11;
 - ii. But not good enough – 1: 14-15
 - g. Labor
 - i. Good – 2:22; 9:10
 - ii. Not good enough – 1:3,8
 - h. Strength

- i. Not good enough – Eccl. 9:16; 9:10-12
- III. If we pursue any of these things as our highest good, we will waste our lives
 - a. What is worth giving our lives to?
 - b. Knowing and being known by the LORD God
 - c. Jeremiah 9:23-24
 - d. Living in submission to His will, motivated by love for Him
 - e. Start early,
 - i. Eccl 11:9-10; 12:1, 6-8
 - ii. Or you may never learn to truly appreciate Him
 - f. Our Creator and God is our highest good, if we do not pursue Him with all our being, we will waste our lives – Eccl. 12:13-14
 - g.