

## Finding Answers

I had the good fortune (or misfortune by one way of looking at it) of attending the University of Oregon during the late 60's and early 70's during which time I was able to acquire degrees in the biological sciences. At first, I had trouble with Biology and Chemistry, because in my mind, I felt there should be a distinction between the two. In actual fact, I found that the two were closely intertwined; so much so that they could almost be considered as different branches of the same subject. Thus, I would create an artificial category of science where none was there, causing problems to exist. Then, I would feel stupid and frustrated by my own inadequacies.

This was during the period of "free love" and the quest for peace. The music people of my particular group would listen to included a rock group called "The Doors". This group was particularly favored by those persons in the culture who, for one reason or another, felt like they had gotten misdirected and left out of the mainstream of their society. This fit me to a tee, because of my academic failings, or rather my perceived misdirection, I was lost and looking for answers about my identity, and, I was not finding the answers in any area of study I would undertake. Therefore, when a group of rebellious musicians with an extremely charismatic and gifted poet/leader came along with a message filled with half truths, I felt that at least belonging to a half truth was better than being cut out of the mainstream of life altogether. Since academically I was feeling cut out of life's conventional college pathway, the doorway to drugs, booze, etc. was opened wide. To the best of my knowledge, no one ever felt that getting high solved your problems, but it did get you away if only for a while. The subject of addiction to either drugs or alcohol was never considered for two reasons: 1. it will never happen to me, and 2. I can deal with that later.

Not surprisingly, when I finally started to look in the right direction and looked to the Bible for some answers, I found that my favorite book in the Bible was Ecclesiastes. The author is a man whose wisdom and wealth has to date been unequalled by anyone who has ever lived. However, he did no better at solving the problems of life on his own than did anyone else, either then or now. Were he alive today, I can not help but feel that he would have succumbed to the fatalism of the half truths offered by "The Doors". I saw some parallels to my life in Solomon's writings. We were both misdirected and willingly so.

His misdirection was in part due to his pursuit of foreign women[1]. This action led to a downward spiral towards fatalism and depression. He writes about the futility of wisdom, wealth, and materialism[2] and continues a diatribe on oppression, work, political success, false worship, and hoarded riches[3]. We are told that the Lord loved Solomon[4]; so what happened? Solomon did not come to terms with the love of God, although he acknowledges that "it falls to every man to fear God and keep His commandments"[5]. He tells the readers to do it, but I do not think that he did it himself. Romans 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God, and Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of this sin is death. What may at first glance to be a fatalistic statement is alleviated by continuing to read the rest of Romans 6:23 which tells us of the free gift of eternal life in Christ. Being of the old Covenant, Solomon did not have Christ. He would have had to seek repentance through the law. Praise His name that we can turn to Christ for the forgiveness of all of our sins.

---

[1] 1 Kings chapter 11

[2] Ecclesiastes 1: 12-2: 23

[3] Ecclesiastes Chapters 4&5

[4] 2 Samuel 12:24

[5] Ecclesiastes 12:13