

“Stop Chasing Bubbles”

Luke 12:22-34

Last week we heard the words of King Solomon that all of the struggling or striving after more than our daily bread is vanity: It is like chasing after the wind. At the church we visited in Branson, the pastor described it like backyard bubbles. A young child will be drawn to the bubble; will chase the bubble; and if they catch the bubble, the euphoria is gone and they have to catch another, and another. Why do we chase bubbles? It seems fun. Perhaps it seems like you are accomplishing something. But, in the end, all you have are hands that need to be washed.

Think about how much time you spend during the week struggling and striving for that which is more than your daily bread. How satisfying is it, at the end of the day, when you think back on all of those bubbles you have caught?

Two weeks ago, in regard to prayer, I said that sometimes that for which we pray is not beneficial in the long run and therefore is not God's will. Remember that “the long run” has an eternal aspect. God is always looking out for your best interest “in the long run.” Therefore prayers for material or physical blessings are not prayers with the guarantee “ask and you shall receive” connected with them.

When we are confronted with the reality that this body will not last

forever here on earth; when we remember that we are mortal; especially those who I have been with as they prepare for the end of their life; never once has anyone said, “I wish I had spent more time at the office. . . I wish I had spent more time watching TV . . . I wish I had spent more time at the casino . . . I wish I had spent more time at the mall . . . I wish I had spent more time playing video games . . . If I had only gone out on more dates . . . I wish I had spent more time surfing the Internet.” Those bubbles are not very satisfying when you catch them.

Nothing is truly satisfying unless it has an eternal aspect. As Jesus says, all the world seeks after these things and your Father knows that you need food and clothing and your daily bread. And He provides it for you. He also knows you need comfort and the blessing which comes with the companionship of a family. And He provides it for you.

Stop chasing bubbles and “seek His kingdom and these things will be added to you,” Jesus says. Do not worry; do not be anxious about this life. At the end of the day, no one looks back on their life with regret and says, “I wish I would have had more clothes . . . or I wish I would have had a bigger house.” These are just more bubbles to be chased. This is why prayers for material or physical blessings are not prayers with the guarantee “ask and you shall receive” connected with them.

When the Powerball jackpot reached \$448 million this week, how many chased after that bubble? How many hours, which could have been productive, were wasted in acquiring the ticket and then dreaming of what winning it would mean – even though you had a 175,000,000 to 1 chance to win? That is 175 with 6 zeros behind it. The actual odds are

175,223,510 to 1.

How many who bought a ticket thought that winning would solve all of their problems and they would never have to worry or be anxious ever again? Have you ever seen the statistics on the divorce rate and bankruptcy for lottery winners? It is just another bubble that pops.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Seek the kingdom of God. His kingdom is not a place. This is not a call for you to spend your days dreaming of the glory of heaven. And this is not some New Age call for you to have better Karma – you know, if you do good for others, good things will happen to you. Although, I read an article this week that “scientists” has proven that Karma is real, or I should say they have theorized (but then these are evolutionary scientists so having a theory and having proof is about the same in their eyes.)

At Michigan State University's Beacon Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, they have theorized (or proven) that good and nice people will ultimately prevail because if being mean, cruel, or selfish gave you an evolutionary advantage, there would be no good or moral people left: survival of the fittest.

They compared this to the popular fear or belief that zombies will take over the world. However, zombies feed on humans, so if there were no humans left, the zombies could not take over. (I wish I were making this up. You would think they could find better use for tax dollars in Michigan.) This is the study of “evolution in action.”

You have to understand that macro-evolution: you evolving out of particles of a hydrogen atom fused together in the Big Bang (an event

that even the supporters of it say had a 1 in 1 quintillionth chance of working – that is a one with 18 zeros behind it). (Talk about chasing bubbles. You winning the Powerball jackpot 2 times in a row is 30 times more likely than their best estimate that the Big Bang would work. Their belief is part of the faith-based religion of humanism). But proclaiming that God was not needed for the universe to work and then over billions of years the material of creation changing from one type of being into another is the chief sacrament of the religion of secular humanism. And that religion, like every other, seeks to overcome sin and death.

At Michigan State University, according to their theory, through evolution, people will eventually become innately good. And if the Russian scientist trying to download human consciousness into a computer allowing you to live forever is successful, then science and humanism, through evolution, will provide eternal life in a world with no sin. Talk about chasing after bubbles.

Seek the kingdom of God. Do not fear; do not worry about this life. It is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. His kingdom of grace is right here within His church. He speaks to you in His Word. He feeds you at His Table. He comforts you with His Holy Spirit. He has given you a family. We rejoice together. We mourn together. We eat together. We are together for the "long run."

God's kingdom of glory is coming. He has made this possible in the sending of His Son who has conquered sin and death through the cross and grave. Fear not; do not worry; do not be anxious; stop chasing bubbles; you have a treasure in heaven that does not fail. Amen.