

**Grace & Truth Bible Church**  
**Virginia, Minnesota**  
**August, 2020**

**The Rat Race**

*"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." Ecclesiastes 1:2*

Solomon embarked on what he thought would be a successful pursuit of happiness but was sorely disappointed. Not only did he fail to find happiness, he also failed to find any lasting purpose either. Life was just an endless cycle of meaningless activity.

In the United States there are those who speak of the **American dream**: The term "American dream" is used in many ways, but it essentially is an idea that suggests that anyone in the US can succeed through hard work and has the potential to lead a happy, successful life." Wisegeek

But, then again some would describe it as more of an illusion or even a nightmare – a "rat race" – "A **rat race** is an endless, self-defeating, or pointless pursuit. This terminology contains implications that many people see work as a seemingly endless pursuit with little reward or purpose." Wiki

For Solomon, the latter designation would be more accurate. To him, life was futile; it was expending a lot of effort "grasping for the wind". I would submit that this assessment is generally true. This is the reason the bars and casinos are full on weekends.

But we must remember that Solomon is looking at life "under the sun", apart from divine revelation and ending in the grave. But God has revealed in His Word that existence does not end in the grave that we will live eternally either in heaven or hell. Even Job could say, (Job 19:26) *And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God. And Jesus said: (John 6:40) And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

It is because of Christ that life has meaning and purpose. It can be an abundant life of joy and ministry to others in light of eternity.

*According to my earnest expectation and hope that ... Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Philippians 1:20-21*

### **August Evening Services**

August 2	Congregational Meeting & Communion – Pastor Miller
August 9	Pastor DeMarte
August 16	Pastor DeMarte
August 23	Pastor DeMarte
August 28-30	Family Camp & Bible Conference

**Greetings!** Summer continues without our Junior and Teen Bible Camp activities. This is disappointing, but as it has been said, “Our disappointments are God’s appointments for our good and His glory.” This is a good time during the pandemic and unrest in our country to share “the good news” and “the sure hope” of the gospel. Instead of getting wound up in the politics of the hour, may we “shine as lights” in this world of darkness and despair.

**An Important Congregational Meeting** will be held before the Communion Service tonight (6 PM, August 2). Four items will be voted on by members: 1) Sale of Aurora building, 2) Assigning authority for an individual to sign for changing the classification of the Aurora property to residential, 3) Purchase of cushions for the church pews, 4) Purchase of a refrigerator for the kitchen.

**Family Camp & Bible Conference with Pastor Jim Steel is planned for August 28-30 at Camp Sigel.** Camp will begin on Friday (afternoon) with the noon meal after the morning service on Sunday. You can either stay at the camp or stay at home and come for the services and activities. Please plan on attending and inviting a friend.

#### **Conference theme and topics:**

*The War Against God – Identify & Fortify*

- The War Against Christ – The Battle for Heaven and Earth
- The War Against God – The Re-envisioned Godhead
- The War Against the Gospel – The Hybridized Gospel

- The War Against the Spirit – The Emergent False Church

### **July Offerings**

2B Free - \$100.00

Missions - \$4971.00

General - \$12,174.60

Camp - \$2855.00

Missionary Arne Johnson - \$1500.00

### **Memory verses for August - Galatians 6:12-16**

(Gal 6:12) As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

(Gal 6:13) For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

(Gal 6:14) But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

(Gal 6:15) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

(Gal 6:16) And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.