

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM PHILOSOPHY?

(as we solidify our own philosophical world-view)

PHILOSOPHY:

The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline. Our beliefs about intellectual process, scientifically proven data, and our spiritual underpinnings all contribute to the pursuit of our own world-views.

Ecclesiastes: The meaningless futility of life apart from God.

A FEW REFLECTIONS

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

The open questions of transience and ultimate meaning **Life is a steady flowing river**

1:12-18 on effecting lasting change **I can't change anything**

2:1-11 on the transience of accumulated possessions and experiences-**I had it all and it left me feeling flat**

2:12-17 on the lost hope of being remembered **so I detested life**

2:18-26 the bitterness of unfulfilled hopes **I am one of innumerable gatherers and collectors**

SOME SPECIFIC REVELATION

3:1-15

Everything in its' time. Eternity is set in my heart. Time is of no consequence to God.

3:11-4:16 oppression WILL happen/better to not face it alone

5:1-9 respectfully approach your Creator

Philosophical Proverbs:

- If you love money you will not be satisfied with money. (5:10)

- Naked I came - naked I shall return. (5:15)

- It is good to live a life of rejoicing. (6:18-20)

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KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON PHILOSOPHIES WE EMBRACE

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."

- Colossians 2.8 in the NASB

"Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ."

- Colossians 2:8 in the Message