

WELCOME

Please mute your devices to avoid a disruption during worship.

The Matter of Mankind

Craig Bradley
(Abridged)

It is said that we die twice: once when the breath leaves the body, and again when the last person who remembers us forgets our name. Consider how few people even know your name to begin with. Of the billions of people on earth, how many know you exist? Suppose you are unusually well known and 5,000 people know you. That is only about 0.00007% of the world's population. Statistically speaking, that is almost nothing. As far as the world is concerned, you scarcely exist. That certainly puts Galatians 6:3 into perspective: "For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

Now suppose you were the most famous person in the world. Who was the most famous person in A.D. 317? Or 1254? Who was the richest or most powerful person in 1671, 1881, or even 1979? Most of us have no idea. Very few people leave a lasting mark on history, and even fewer are remembered by later generations. Fame, wealth, and power are all temporary.

In the time it took you to read these paragraphs, dozens of people around the world died. Who were they? Who knows their names or remembers their lives? The world does not notice when we are born, nor does it stop when we die. It is no wonder that God tells us, "Do not love the world or the things in the world... And the world is passing away along with its desires" (1 John 2:15, 17).

This reality makes our relationships so precious. As far as this life is concerned, it is the small circle of people who know and love us that gives our earthly existence meaning.

It is interesting that the cosmologist Carl Sagan concluded, "For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love." Solomon reached a similar conclusion centuries earlier: "Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life... for that is your portion in life" (Eccl. 9:9).

David also gazed upon the vastness of creation, but instead of despair he found comfort. In Psalm 8:3-4 he wrote, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him?" David saw the infinite power of God, yet he marveled that this same God was mindful of him. The Creator of the universe knew him personally, and that gave his life significance.

The world may not know we exist, but God does. He created you, and He created you to be exactly who you are. David celebrates this truth in Psalm 139:13-16, declaring that God formed him in the womb, knew him before he was born, and ordained his days before one of them came to be.

We are precious to God. He loves us so deeply that He sent Jesus to make a relationship with Him possible. In the end, that relationship is what gives our lives lasting significance. After examining every earthly pursuit, Solomon reached this conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all."

Some translations read, "For this is the whole duty of man." While that idea is true, it does not fully capture Solomon's point. The emphasis is broader than duty alone. The conclusion of the whole matter of life is that the whole matter of mankind is found in a right relationship with God. That relationship is what gives meaning to our lives now, and it is the one thing that will endure long after the world has forgotten our names.

Announcements:

Prayer List

- Sandra's Aunt: Experiencing severe gastrointestinal and kidney issues. She was also recently diagnosed with cancer. Sandra is a friend of Belle and Devan and has recently been worshipping with us.
- Rob Canon: Suffers from long-term health issues.
- Brian Escobar: Being treated for lung cancer.
- Mike Grimes: Working to regain his strength after his health issues.

Traveling/Away

- Nico Azaroff: Deployed with his unit. Due to return toward the end of the year.

Upcoming Events

- Business Meeting: August 9th after evening class.

Morning Worship Assignments

Opening Prayer- Earl Shumaker
Scripture Reading- David Johnson Sr.
Sermon- Joe Wright
Closing Prayer- James Wright
Song Leader- Earl Shumaker

Evening Worship Assignments

Song Leader- Devan Wright
Closing Prayer- Lucio Estrada

Key Scripture:

“For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”

-Romans 14:8



ABOUT US

We seek to follow the teachings of the Bible, which is the only source to find doctrine. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Good News, which is, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has presented himself as the perfect sacrifice by willingly going to the cross to take away our sins.

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Bible Study 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

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