

1 The Myth

of Personal Destiny

- Can we really be whatever we want to be?

2 Great Evil?

- Recently, a men's group from Ekklesia went to see a film that has got to be one of the worst films ever produced by the godless Hollywood establishment.
- In this film, it blatantly suggested that . . .
 - Fulfilling our dreams is the most important objective for our lives.
 - All of us need to aim high, work hard, and stay the course no matter what others think.

3 Study Guide

4 That Time of Year

- Starting this month, we are going to see speaker after speaker at graduation ceremonies telling the students . . .
 - Be true to yourself (keep the dream alive),
 - Aim high, work hard, stay the course, and
 - Don't let others or circumstances discourage you.

5 The Identity Code

- The idea that you can be whatever you want to be in life is a myth that tortures people needlessly.
- It forces you to follow false trails such as money, fame, or family approval, or to stay the course out of sheer desperation.
- It eats at the very core of your being. Why? Because it lacks integrity; it simply isn't true.
- From an early age, we swallow this elixir eagerly. Without thinking, we let it coat our way of life.

6 The Identity Code

- Where do I want to go? The possibilities seem endless and we can become overwhelmed in trying to make a choice.
- Is my dream too small? Ought I reach for the stars? Should I be a . . .
 - Doctor, lawyer, scientist,
 - Nobel Prize-winner, Astronaut, Artist, Actor,
 - Famous missionary or God's prophet to the nations?

7 The Identity Code

- The point in Dr. Ackerman’s book “The Identity Code,” is . . .
 - Trying to be someone we’re not is tremendously burdensome.
 - It can lead to us living a lie where we lose respect with others and even being at peace with ourselves.
 - What is needed is that we discover who we really are by looking at our abilities, talents, and resources.
 - Discover who we are in Christ.

8 Consequences

- We can expect disappointment, if not humiliation.
- Sense of betrayal from those who encouraged us.
- Anger, bitterness, and ability to trust others.

9 Our Culture

- Looks at success as being famous and or rich.
- “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?” (Eccl 1:2–3 NIV)
- People who want to get rich (famous, a big shot, or a somebody) fall into temptation, a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge (slam dunk) men into ruin and destruction.
(1 Tim 6:9 NIV)

10 Our Culture

- And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man’s envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.” (Eccl 4:4 NIV)
- But godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Tim 6:6 NIV)
- Secret of Contentment?
 - “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (Phil 4:12–13 NIV)

11 Question

- How can we seek God’s Kingdom and His righteousness, when we’re out seeking our own worldly dreams and ambitions?
- Do we really believe the greatest in God’s kingdom is the servant of all?
- Are we really content with being who we really are?

- Do we really understand that friendship with the world is hatred towards God?
- Can we be content with just being a servant?

12 Conclusion

- A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?
- To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.” (Eccl 2:24–26 NIV)

13 Truth

- The secret of a happy life is not following our dreams as defined by the world, but is found in serving the LORD and doing what pleases Him.
- If we do, we will not be burdened with cares and desires that can torment our souls, cause strife in our family, and drain our bank account.
- Instead we will find contentment with what we have, and find peace with not only God, but ourselves as well.
- To all of this . . . there is great gain!

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