\*VANITIES OF LIFE\*.

The Psalmist uttered one of the most accurate sentences of all times; when he said:

 \*"The earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof, the world and those that dwell therein".\*

Psalm 24:1

Looking at the entirety of this world and the manner in which everyone comes in and more importantly, the abrupt end of our sojourn on earth; one should ordinarily live in tandem with Psalm 24:1;

We are meant to be living in the consciousness of the fact that everything in life has a single owner; who is the Almighty God, the creator of all things.

However, we live in a world filled with obsession and craving for positions, titles, possessions, money and power; all of which will outlived the person that acquires them.

The essence of this message is to remind us of the fact that, we are on pilgrimage on this earth; for God's purposes and we will be returning home some day.

God created man from the dust of the earth and we will all return back to the dust; \*6ft down the ground at the appointed time for each person.\*

The bible says:

 \*"After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it".\* 1 Tim 6:7.

Yet, we all strive to have a strong hold of power and possessions.

King Solomon, wrote:

\*"I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit".\*

Ecc 1:14.

The whole thing becomes quite confusing, when you try to compare the above verse of the scripture with what God said in Jeremiah 29:11;

 \*"For I know the plans that I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".\*

It was obvious King Solomon was more preoccupied with the \*abrupt end of man\* to the effect that man's labour and the acquisitions of life's possessions do not add value after all.

Irrespective of your status and acquisitions of life; everybody goes down empty.

\*"What does a man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? ".\*

Ecc 1:3.

The book of Genesis: \*Chapter 11 :4\* revealed how some people gathered together and said:

 \*"Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves;\*

Their motive was wrong before God and He scattered them; that they could not accomplish their objective.

 \*Vanity! .\*

I remembered the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in the book of Mark 8:36:

 \*"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to lose His soul?"\*

It means, \*you cannot afford to labour in vain ;acquire and enjoy all the good things of life and yet miss Heaven.\*

Brothers and sisters; \*Indeed, the whole pursuit of life is vanity.\*

Growing up, I knew a man that had a car, he had grown up sons who were graduates; but he will not allow them to touch the car.

The day he died; it was the same car the children took spreading the news of their father's death.

\*"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity".\*

Ecc 1:2.

You may want to ask: How then, shall we live a meaningful life?

King Solomon was equally puzzled, hence he asked:

\*"For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?"\*

Ecc 6:12.

\*Our God, is an all knowing God;\* who knows the end of a thing even before it began.

Jesus Christ answered the question in the book of Matthew 6:33:

 \*"But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you".\*

In otherwords, \*our pursuit in life ,should be cantered on things that have eternal value.\*

Excessive craving for things that are ephemeral: temporal in nature is delusionary;

 \*"Because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil".\*

Ecc 2:21.

In the same vein, our bodies are not our own.

The bible says:

 \*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your true and proper worship".\*

Romans 12:1

In conformity to the words of Psalm 24:1 ,God owns everything on earth, including our bodies;

 \*"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own".\*

1 Cor 6:19.

We do not own anything in this life; though we strive to have ownership of many of life's possessions.

The term ownership as it relates to human beings is a mirage; it is not real.

 \*God owns everything.\*

The bible confirms it:

\*"Behold, to the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, and the earth and everything in it".\*

Deu 10:14.

My thoughtful consideration of the affairs of mankind on earth to owing earthly possessions and relating mans striving with the word of God; it brings me to the conclusion that:

\*Everything we have on this earth is handed over to us on leasehold basis;\*

We shall leave all behind at the appointed time of death.

We should therefore, not be overly attached to mundane things of this world.

King Solomon concluded:

 \*"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man".\*

Our Lord Jesus says it all in \*Matthew 6:33\*;

We are here primarily for God's purposes and we should not be distracted by the things of this world that God have kept for us.

Finally, I beseech you brothers and sisters that we focus our attention on things that pleases God.

When you are blessed with things of life, ensure you use them for the benefit of mankind and with the consciousness that you will leave them behind some day.

 \*"For God shall bring every work into judgement; with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil".\*

Ecc 12:14.

 \*Prayer\*: Father order my steps in life so I will not be cut up only in the pursuit of vanities but rather that I will seek you and Your righteousness in Jesus name. 🙏🏼

Shalom.

 \*JESUS Reigns\*

Signed, Bro Cole