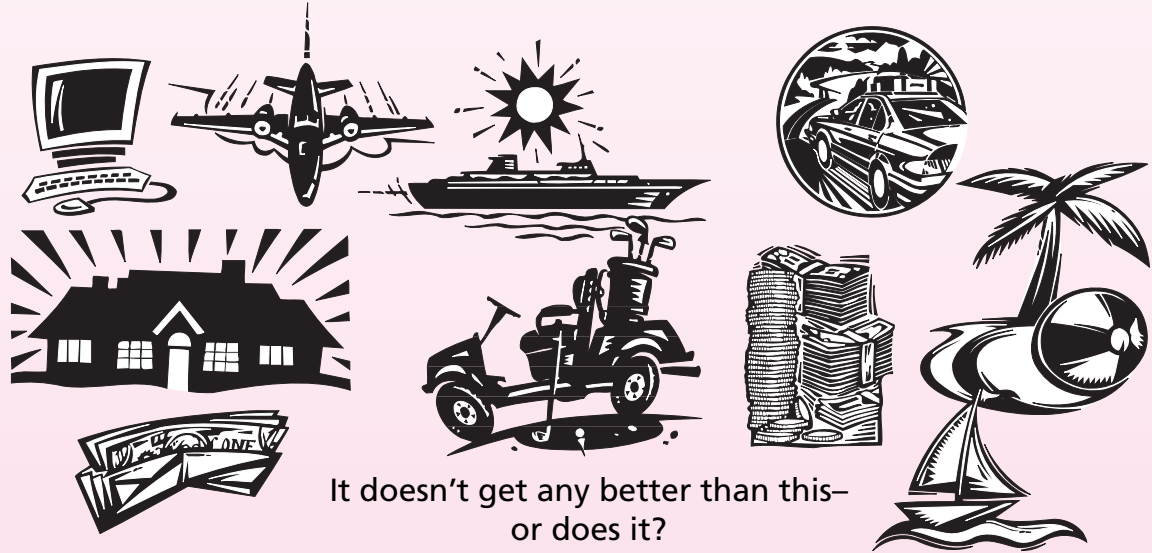


LIVE IT UP



It doesn't get any better than this—
or does it?

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD

SURVEY SAYS

If your goal in life was to be featured on a TV show, which would it be?

- Late Night with David Letterman 35.3%
- Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous 27.0%
- This week with David Brinkley 18.2%
- Entertainment Tonight 10.7%
- Monday Night Football 6.9%

—from *Esquire* magazine's student survey (April 1992)

I WANT . . .

"What I'm looking for in life is a great marriage, great kids, a BMW, a Dalmatian, and a \$100,000-a-year job in a helping profession."

—a sorority woman at the Univ. of Oregon

I HAVE, I WANT

"I have a pretty wife, a Jaguar, a Mercedes, a beautiful home, and a yacht. I want a Ferrari, a bigger house, and a bigger boat."

—Robert Jacoby, former president of Sunrise Savings and Loan, now insolvent

WHAT I WANT



MEANING OF LIFE

"Men lust, but they know not what for; They wander, and lose track of the goal; They fight and compete, but they forget the prize; They spread seed, but spurn the seasons of growth; They chase power and glory, and miss the meaning of life."

—George Gilder

DEFINE

PERSPECTIVE: The capacity to see things in their relative importance

Psalm 39



CONTEXT

In a moving way the author draws us into the reality of life with its vexing problems and the unresolved quest for meaning. The psalm is in the form of an individual lament...The structure has two parallel movements from a vow of silence to an expression of hope:

- A. Silence Before the Lord (v.1-3)
- B. Prayer for Divine Illumination (v.4-6)
- C. Prayer for Deliverance (v. 7-8)
- A1. Silence Before the Lord (v.9)
- B1. Prayer for Divine Illumination (v.10-11)
- C1. Prayer for Deliverance (v.12-13)

FLEETING



SHOW ME



Psalm 39:4-6

- 4 “**Show me**, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how **fleeting** is my life.
- 5 You have made my days a mere *handbreadth*; the span of my years is nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath.
- 6 Man is a mere *phantom* as he goes to and fro; He **bustles** about, but only in vain; he **heaps up wealth**, not knowing who will get it.
- emphasis added*

“Handbreadth”
One of the smallest units of measurements in ancient Israel. It is equivalent to a couple of inches. Thus, the psalmist reminds himself that life is short.

BUSTLES



“Phantom”

Man’s importance is dwarfed in comparison with God. As a “phantom”, man’s future and existence are filled with uncertainties.

WEALTH



FLEETING

"Life's Short-Play Hard"

James 4:14

IMPLICATIONS



BUSTLES

"Life is a rat race and the rats are winning."

Luke 10:41-42

IMPLICATIONS



HEAPS WEALTH

"He who dies with the most toys still dies."

Ecclesiastes 5:10

IMPLICATIONS





JOURNAL

...too often, people get wrapped up in life and its ways. We forget who put us here. We forget to trust, to worship, praise and follow God's command to reach the world for Christ. This happened to me, but I am so glad and praise the Lord for trials and errors that make me come to my knees for Him. Life is so short and we need to be about His business, to reach others. I'm glad I am now on the correct path to eternal life."

—Rory Jordan



APPLICATION

Fifty years from now, when you look back on your life, what do you want to have lived for?

What ramifications does living with an eternal perspective have on the major decisions you will make?



START NOW

How can you start living like that today?

"Life is not just a few years to spend on self-indulgence and career advancement. It is a privilege, a responsibility, a stewardship to be lived according to a much higher calling."

—Elizabeth Dole, former Secretary of Transportation.

"A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you, and were helped by you, will remember you. So carve your name on hearts, and not on marble."

—C.H. Spurgeon (1834-1892) The most beloved British preacher of his time.

"For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

—2 Corinthians 5:10, Paul.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.