



~ 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025 ~  
 ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity ~  
 ~ Collect (s) ~

Lord of all power and might,  
 the author and giver of all good things:  
 graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
 increase in us true religion,  
 nourish us with all goodness,  
 and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. Amen

or

Generous God,  
 you give us gifts and make them grow:  
 though our faith is small as mustard seed,  
 make it grow to your glory  
 and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

~ Readings ~

Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12 - 14; 2: 18 - 23 OT p 668  
 Colossians 3: 1 - 11 NT p 1184  
 Luke 12: 13 - 21 NT p 1045

(NIV used in sermon preparation)

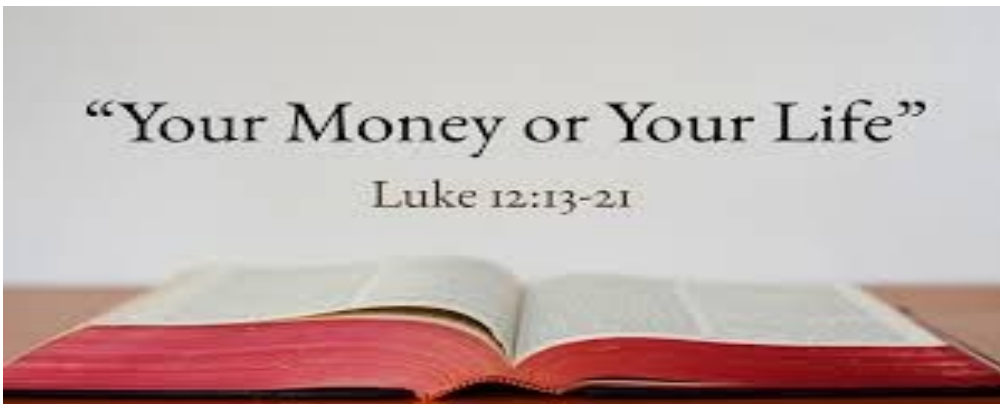
~ Post Communion Prayer ~

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,  
 ever giving himself that the world may live:  
 may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and  
 Passion that, in his saving cup,  
 we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;  
 for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.



“Your Money or Your Life”

Luke 12:13-21



We do not often think about the translations of our Bible but we need to be mindful that differences will influence what we think God's Word is saying to us.

For instance which translation of Ecclesiastes 1:2 is more familiar to you the one we heard this morning or another?

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." (NIV)

or

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities!  
All is vanity. (RSV/KJV)

or

It is useless, useless, said the Philosopher. Life is useless,  
all useless. (GNV)

or

Smoke, nothing but smoke. [That's what the Quester says.]  
There's nothing to anything—it's all smoke. (MSG)

or

"Futile! Futile!" laments the Teacher.

"Absolutely futile! Everything is futile!" (NEB)

or

"It is of no use," says the Preacher. "It is of no use! All is for  
nothing." (NLV)

or

Life is fleeting, like a passing mist. It is like trying to catch hold  
of a breath; All vanishes like a vapor;  
everything is a great vanity. (VOICE)

A selection of eight versions, all used in different Anglican  
Worship traditions ~ and sometimes to say what the minister  
wants to emphasise rather than what God wants to say to His  
people! It is a huge responsibility for any preacher to explore  
God's Word with their congregation (s) which is why we cover our  
offerings in prayer and ask those receiving our thoughts to  
Challenge them if they do not 'ring true' or appear to make sense.  
There are safeguards like always using the same translation (here  
the NIV is our pew bible) within worship and study but it is wise  
to check at times what other translations say. (The Church of  
England primarily uses the KJV or the RSV officially.)

Thankfully this week, despite the various translations, our three  
readings seem to support each other in our exploration and what

we may understand.

Ecclesiastes, attributed to King Solomon as its author, looks at  
building up material treasures or riches which are left behind us  
when we die. That is what is considered vain, futile or meaningless.  
By all means work for what you need to live ~ God will provide ~ but  
avoid becoming greedy or self-satisfying by squirrelling away things  
that you want but do not need and that might stand in the way with  
your pilgrimage of faith.

I am learning just how easy that is to do without realising it as I  
work through the down-sizing exercise in preparation for retiring  
to a smaller house!

Colossians makes me feel a little better with its encouragement to

"set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated  
at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above,  
not on earthly things."

and reminds us that we have this life to share Christ as central to  
all so that others may know or themselves. Remember Peter Pan's  
shadow ~ when we live our faith others see Christ in us even if no  
words are exchanged.

Luke relates the parable of the rich fool or farmer which  
effectively puts the wisdom of Solomon in Ecclesiastes into  
picture imagery that Jesus' listeners can readily understand.

Nowhere are we told that we should not enjoy possessions or the  
security that they can give us but we are clearly taught to put God,  
through Jesus, first and central to our lives and living.

I have challenged us before to look at all we have and work out  
what we need and why and then to acknowledge what we can give  
away (whether we need to replace it for our well-being or can easily  
live without).

This week I invite you to do that exercise again and consider those  
things that you have needed but, in honesty, need no longer. Some  
you can consider giving away or selling, others sadly will have  
outlived their usefulness and will end up recycled or in the skip.

Watch an episode of "Sort your life out" BBC 1, currently airing  
5th season on Tuesdays at 8pm and on iPlayer !