

# The Gospel Herald

---

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by  
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

*“Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity”*  
(Ecclesiastes 12:8)

*Dear beloved of God, called by divine grace and blessed with hope of sins forgiven and life eternal by the promises of the scriptures,*

*One cannot escape the international news media saturating the airways with the revelation of the death of one **Michael Jackson**, the renowned titled “King of Pop” musical entertainer. As I observed this mortal over the years, I cannot help but think how he was a “Mortal Monster” trapped in a physical body which he despised. I have observed over my 65 years, his 50 years of existence as an entertainer and how he drastically changed his physical appearance, seeking an image that would satisfy his perception of mind.*

*Here is a man who was cast into the limelight of popularity in his youth without a normal (whatever that is) life like the majority of society. He was rocketed to stardom as an individual entertainer apart from his family’s musical group beginnings. He surpassed all record, tape and CD sales with his sought-after musical talent. There is no question the entertainer had a singing and dancing style that captivated hundreds of millions of young folks over the past generation.*

*As an individual that wanted for NOTHING in this world’s goods, building a 2500 acre “Wonderland” to attempt to fulfill his idea of a place of happiness and fulfillment. Anything at his beck and call, traveling worldwide to where ever he would desire to visit, material things merely at the request of those who served him. Yet, with all the **Fame and Fortune**, he lived in a mortal prison of a body of sin and death. I cannot help but reflect on the man **Solomon** who was the richest mortal in the world (to the best of my knowledge), 10,000 horses, and horsemen, 700 wives, servants both men and woman, mammoth botanical gardens, and a designed Real estate that man had never imagined before.*

As time had taken its toll on Solomon, and he looked over his vast kingdom of wealth and riches, wanting for nothing in the material realm, he was a miserable wretch of a man **“Vexed in spirit”** and grieved with dissatisfaction of all that he had acquired and designed. “A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honor, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease” (Eccl. 6:2).

When man reaches the pinnacle of life where he wants for nothing and the mind and heart become idle with thoughts of self and grief of the care of goods, what a curse that is brought upon the heart and soul of the mortal creature. **No hope beyond that which one has acquired and designed!** What is there left after all desire and the mortal hearts’ longings are satisfied? When the praise of men has become silenced as time removes the fame of mortal man as was happening to this one **Michael Jackson** and which happened to one **Elvis Presley**. What is there left? The applause and praise of the massive audiences are silenced, and their adored talent ceases to entertain the masses, what is left? The idle mind and heart of man by nature once praised by the multitudes thrives on being recognized as an idol to the world. And when his time ceases and **vexation of spirit** overtakes the soul of the mortal there remains **nothing and no hope**.

The once “satisfied” soul with the worship of man as they entertained the masses, has now become overwhelmed with dissatisfaction and vanity. There is **no rest, no peace; joy has taken its flight**. As with these two entertainers, drugs were the **ONLY** means to find rest of mind and body.

Sleepless nights, restless days haunted the soul until they begged for deliverance by drugs enchantment. **“All is vanity, vanity, and vexation of spirit,”** to the point where the demands of drugs addiction were the **ONLY** place of solitude and rest, to only find that when their temporal effects wore, the need for more and more grew as a monster overtaking mind and reason to self destruction.

Beloved of God, “What does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his own soul?” Oh! the vanity of **THINGS** and **WEALTH**. The ultimate ruin of man by the praise of the multitudes and the bounty of riches. It is a true thing that man exalted to high praise and adoration for whatever talent or quality, shall in time be blinded into vanity, pride, and pursue the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life to their own destruction. Even the so called “popular preachers” of our past generation have fallen by **“vanity’s vexation”** to the destruction of their integrity. Oh! great is the warning to “take heed to those who think they stand, lest they fall”!! And **GREAT** shall be their fall.

Yea, dear ones, ministers who once were blessed to proclaim the sound gospel of Jesus Christ, savoured with the Almighty sovereignty of God have been **SILENCED** by sin’s dread deception. Oh! if not by grace where would this poor sinner be? May the lives of others caught in the trap of fame and fortune be a warning to those of God’s heritage,

*prayerfully seeking our God to make us **Content in whatsoever state we find ourselves.**” Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith. May **HOPE** be that substance that binds our heart, mind and souls to keep our focus on **HE** which alone is **the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE....Yeah, even Jesus of whom we have to do, who has called us with a holy calling, CAUSED us to approach unto Him and MADE us believe upon HIM of whom He has sent to seek and save sinners. O salvation so rich and free, for where shall the sinner flee? For only to Calvary’s tree to see the Son of God high and lifted up above the earth, with streaming blood flowing down from Immanuel’s veins which alone can atone for the sin of God’s elect and appointed children. O see him, dear friend, behold Him as God shall determine and praise Him from whom all blessings flow.***

*Respectfully submitted,  
July 5, 2009*