

# What Are We Seeking In Our Lives?

The Greek philosopher Pythagoras is said to have divided people into three classes:

- 1) Seekers after knowledge
- 2) Seekers after honour
- 3) Seekers after gain

This is obviously simplistic in division and too general in nature to be entirely accurate.

Still, after a lifetime of observing and rubbing shoulders with many people I feel this observation deserves respectful attention.

While Pythagoras was a mathematician and astronomer, he was also a religious man who stood for high morality and founded a group that was dedicated to the reformation of moral standards in society.

Let us consider Pythagoras' three classes of people in modern society.

## Seekers after knowledge

We don't call such people philosophers [*“lovers of wisdom”*] but scholars, professors and scientists who love knowledge for itself.

Such people act like intellectual magpies collecting shiny bits of knowledge. Fortunately for them there is finance available from various sources to enable them to devote their whole life to satisfy this personal desire.

**2 Timothy 3:7-9** [NIV] *“...always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth, men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith [in God] is concerned, are rejected. But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.”*

## Seekers after honour

These are people like politicians, people who have an incurable itch to be well known.

Politicians to satisfy this itch they manage to work up a convincing, if not phoney, patriotic fever every election year to convince people it would be in their interest to vote them into power.

The reward of these seekers after honour is to be applauded by the masses they secretly despise.

**Matthew 6:1-2** [NIV] *“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.”*

## Seekers after gain

Such people can be sub-divided into a **morally descending range of characters**. The top ones are **honest businessmen** who become wealthy within the law, on the bottom are **racketeers** who gain their wealth outside of the law.

**For all their mental and social skills such people have totally missed the reason for living.**

**Mark 8:34-38** [NIV] *“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”***

**1 Timothy 6:6-10** [NIV] *“**But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**”*

**I wonder if Pythagoras failed to notice two other classes of people?**

**I am sure they existed in his day as they do now.**

## **Seekers after nothing**

**Such people live by their glands and instincts, who allow their magnificent intellectual mind to wither away from lack of exercise.**

These people are exposed by the company they keep.

Their reading is limited to the sports pages and the comic section of tabloid papers.

Art appreciation is limited to “*page three*” and magazine covers found on the top shelf in newsagents.

Their music is whatever is popular, handy and loud.

After work they sit and watch TV or just drive around looking for, or waiting for, they know not what!

This describes many of our country’s population who are called the “*electorate*” who influence the direction our nation takes morally, politically and religiously.

We live in a society where for the vast majority their Creator God does **not** enter into any part of their lives.

The truth about the very reason for our existing has been hidden from them by human relationship.

**Romans 1:18** [Message Bible] *“But God’s angry displeasure erupts as acts of human mistrust and wrongdoing and lying accumulate, as people try to put a shroud over truth.”*

Most people do **not** wish God to be part of their lives because this would bring with it responsibilities to Him as their Creator and Sustainer. People see evolution, the attempt to explain the world without a God, an easy alternative in which all they do seeking personal pleasure can be blamed on their ancestors or genes.

**Romans 1:19-20** [Message Bible] *“But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can’t see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So nobody has a good excuse.”*

If we use the intellect we have received as human beings and look at all that God has created, it is impossible to accept the theory of evolution.

**Romans 1:21-22** [Message Bible] *“What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn’t treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialised themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives. They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life.”*

However intellectual you may feel you are, if you leave the Creator God out of the picture, you are totally ignorant about the reason for our existence.

**Romans 1:23** [Message Bible] *“They traded the glory of God who holds the whole world in his hands for cheap figurines you can buy at any roadside stand.”*

People try to fill the void in their lives that only God can fill, with physical possessions, pleasure, drugs, etc.

**Romans 1:24-25** [Message Bible] *“So God said, in effect, ‘If that’s what you want, that’s what you get.’ It wasn’t long before they were living in a pigpen, smeared with filth, filthy inside and out. And all this because they traded the true God for a fake god, and worshipped the god they made instead of the God who made them, the God we bless, the God who blesses us. Oh, yes!”*

To help such people to learn a lesson God allowed the natural sequence of events to take place in a society who turn their back on Him. What we see all around us today is the end result of a godless society.

**Romans 1:26-32** [Message Bible] *“Worse followed. Refusing to know God, they soon didn’t know how to be human either, women didn’t know how to be women, men didn’t know how to be men. Sexually confused, they abused and defiled one another, women with women, men with men, all lust, no love. And then they paid for it, oh, how they paid for it, emptied of God and love, godless and loveless wretches. Since they didn’t bother to acknowledge God, God quit bothering them and let them run loose. And then all hell broke loose: rampant evil, grabbing and grasping, vicious backstabbing. They made life hell on earth with their envy, wanton killing, bickering, and cheating. Look at them: mean-spirited, venomous, fork-tongued God-bashers. Bullies, swaggerers, insufferable windbags! They keep inventing new ways of wrecking lives. They ditch their parents when they get in the way. Stupid, slimy, cruel, cold-blooded. And it’s not as if they don’t know better. They know perfectly well they’re spitting in God’s face. And they don’t care, worse, they hand out prizes to those who do the worst things best!”*

When the spirit in human beings [see **Job 32:8**] is **not** influenced by the Holy Spirit [God] the human being becomes worse than animals who do not have that spirit in them. This spirit gives human beings the ability to plan and create new objects from the basic elements that God has created.

Without the moral guidance of the Holy Spirit the abilities of the human spirit leads us to create things that end up bringing pain, suffering, oppression and every kind of evil.

## Seekers after God

**These are the salt of the earth and a light in this darkened society.**

Their number are not large compared with those who have forgotten or have never known their Creator God.

By nature they are no better than the rest of people, and by practice they may have sometimes been worse.

**One sign that marks them out from among the masses is their insatiable thirst after the Source of their existence, the Creator God.**

**Matthew 5:6** [NIV] *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”*

Such people are constantly disappointed with themselves, and have sometimes in the past been a stumbling block in society.

**The Grace of God meets these people as they walk towards Him and the Holy Spirit changes them from what they were into what they now fervently longed to become.**

Today we know what the Greek Pythagoras could **not** know, that His Creator God was in Jesus Christ reconciling all people unto Him, not counting their sins against them.

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21** [NIV] *“So from now on we regard no-one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.** We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

There were seekers after God even in the days of the Greek Pythagoras and their destiny lies in the hands of the same Creator God as does ours.

## **One word of warning needs to be added.**

**Matthew 10:7, 11-15** [NIV] *“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’” ... “Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.”*

It will be better in the day of judgement for the “*seeker after God*” in the pre-Christian days who stretched out pagan hands towards God in a hope that he might find Him, than the careless, unthinking, “*seeker after nothing*”, of today, when we have all that is needed to become “*seekers after God*.”

**Pray that God will so empower His Church that the sound of the gospel message will be so powerful that it will drown out the distracting, mindless noise that present-day society makes, that has been blinded to the very reason human beings have been given life.**

**2 Corinthians 4:4-6** [NIV] *“The god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do **not** preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”*

**We who walk in the light have the responsibility to reflect that light on those who are still in the dark, blinded by Satan whose society we see all around us.**

May our light restore sight to blinded eyes that they may repent and believe the gospel message, of what Jesus Christ can do for them to become seekers after the Creator God.