"I AM NOTHING I'M A DEVIL"

I met a man. He seemed to speak sorrowfully with regret. The Seventy-eight-old, former area chief of the Barut Location where I live commented, "I've been everywhere, done everything. But I'm ready to hang it up. I'm tired. I'll soon be eighty. "The man sounded discouraged. When I inquired about his religious beliefs, he responded "I am nothing... I'm a devil." I responded by telling him, "I am a Christian, a member of the Church of Christ".

He certainly didn't appear to be a devil; at least, not like the image I have of Satan. The aging man was kind and thoughtful and in his conversation with us, (with my son Charles who had joined us) he was very pleasant. However, he apparently was not satisfied with his life and realizing that it would soon be over, he was very blunt in expressing displeasure and/or disappointment with the closing years of his earthly life.

The gentleman who said he "had been everywhere and done everything" was born in Kenya, Kericho County. He experience a long career in teaching before he became a local chief. He has since retired and doing much of intensive farming, growing tea and maize and his wife have "slowed down somewhat" and live most of the time on their own farm. The wife attends the "church" known as African Gospel Church (A.G.C). But the man does not attend any church at all.

But know what? At the age of eighty with his health described as "not good," (he is also suffering from high blood pressure like me) we were saddened to hear him say, "I am nothing.... I'm a devil".

The story of this 80-year-old man. We were privileged to meet, reminded me of the Biblical story of Solomon as recorded in the book of Ecclesiastes. It is the story of Solomon who searched for meaning in his own life. And, it appears that he sought for happiness in all "the wrong places". He held back nothing as he searched for meaningful, satisfying life. He had the money (he was the richest man of his time). He had the power (he was king). He could do just about anything or whatever he wanted. He not only knew about "wine, women and song", he indulged (A thousand wives). Yet, after trying all, he came to the conclusion that, "All was vanity and vexation of spirit". (Read Ecclesiastes, especially chapter 2; also 12:8).

At the end of Solomon's search for his life's true meaning and the realization of his own personal happiness, he finally came to the conclusion that the whole duty of man is to Fear God and keep his commandments". (Ecc. 12:13).

A study of New Testament scripture supports Solomon's summary of life's purpose. There can be no real, lasting meaning to one's earthly life separate from our Creator (God). True and lasting happiness is found only in and through Jesus Christ.

The greatest need of every soul is to learn about Jesus, the Savior of the world and to realize you are not a Christian, I urge you to learn about Him, believe in Him and be obedient to His Gospel. Then, allow the example of Jesus, as revealed through the written word to make you a servant. Through service to others you, as a Christian, can experience an "abundant life" on earth as you live daily in hope of eternal bliss in that heavenly home. I plead with you. Be something. Become a Christian. Live for something, for someone – Jesus!

Your Brother in Christ

John Kombo