

SERIES OVERVIEW

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon sets out to discover if “life under the sun” is truly worth living. He goes on a journey throughout the book and finds himself originally declaring that everything under the sun is meaningless (Hebrew. Hebel—literally translated, vapor or breath. Used 38 times in this book). Solomon is overwhelmed with the truth that death is coming for every person, and that nothing worked for, earned, or pursued seems to have any lasting value. It’s not until Solomon starts focusing his attention on things “beyond the sun” that he recognizes life’s true meaning and purpose. He ultimately discovers that the whole purpose of man is to enjoy life and all its blessings, to live by faith, and to prepare for eternity by fearing God and keeping his commandments.

- [Watch Overview](#) (Watch as a group)

CONTEXT

The author of Ecclesiastes explores various pleasures and accomplishments, seeking meaning and satisfaction through them. Ultimately, he finds that these pursuits are meaningless and concludes that true fulfillment cannot be attained through worldly endeavors alone.

THE BIG IDEA

The pleasures of this world promise fulfillment but never satisfy. Chasing pleasure is like chasing after the wind.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

1 I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?” 3 I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. 4 I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. 5 I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. 8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man. 9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. 10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. 11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

STARTER QUESTION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 and underline all the different ways Solomon experimented with to find fulfillment and happiness.

What are some modern-day "experiments" people conduct to seek fulfillment, similar to Solomon's tests with pleasure, wine, and accomplishments?

Share a time when you pursued something in life that you thought would satisfy you but you came up empty.

In what areas of your life do you need to "demote" things that have taken God's place on the throne of your heart?

How can we enjoy the good things in life with wisdom, without turning them into idols?

How does the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 illustrate the pursuit of fulfillment in wrong places and the joy and true satisfaction of returning to God?

Why do you think Solomon chose to test his heart with pleasure and accomplishments? What was he hoping to find?

When we read the Bible, we are not just reading a story and gaining information. We need to learn what the passage of scripture teaches us about who God is. What does this passage teach us about who God is?

Group Discussion continued: In response to hearing all that The Preacher did searching for a satisfied life, Pastor Carlos shared 3 responses for us; 1. Look to Jesus, 2. Enjoy the Good Things of Life With Wisdom and 3. Learn From the Preacher. Discuss each of these and share which one you need to focus on & why.

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

Closing Prayer (together as a group)

Heavenly Father, we come before You acknowledging that true fulfillment and joy can only be found in You. Help us to turn away from the vanities of this world and seek the eternal satisfaction that only You can provide. Amen.

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