

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 children 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.

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'This is your life'

2. A pleasurable life Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Introduction

- "I would be happy if only I had..."

The search for pleasure (v1-10)

- laughter
- wine
- property
- gardens
- staff
- animals
- money
- music
- sex
- fame
- anything else?

The verdict on pleasure (v11)

- meaningless
- the root of the problem
- the source of true pleasure

Conclusion

- Enjoy God's gifts
- Don't live for them

Next week
This is your life
3. A pointless life
Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

Bible references: Ecclesiastes 5:10, 1 Kings 11:3, Romans 1:24-25, Ecclesiastes 3:11, 2:24-25, 3:13, 9:7-9