

ECCLESIASTES

Ecccl. 2:1-11



Eccl. 2:1 **I said in mine heart**, Go to now, **I will** prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also *is* vanity.

2 I said of laughter, *It is* mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?

3 **I sought in mine heart** to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what *was* that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

4 **I made me** great works; **I builded me** houses; **I planted me** vineyards:

5 **I made me** gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all *kind of* fruits:

6 **I made me** pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

7 **I got me** servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

8 **I gathered me** also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: **I gat** me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, *as* musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

10 And **whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy**; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

11 Then I looked on **all the works that my hands had wrought**, and on **the labour that I had laboured to do**: and, **behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.**

This evening, we continue on a wonderful, spiritual journey through the Book of Ecclesiastes, known also as “The Preacher.”

I. THE PREACHER’S SUBJECT, 1:1-11

A. The Preacher, 1:1 (Solomon)

B. The Problem, 1:2-3

C. The Process, 1:4-11

II. THE PREACHER’S SERMON, 1:12-10:20

A. Things He Had Sought, 1:12—2:26

1. His Persistent Search, 1:12-2:11

a. The World of Thought, 1:12-18

(1) His First Quest: To Exploit His Wisdom, 1:12-15

(a) What He Declared, 1:12

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(c) What He Displayed, 1:13b

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i. Man’s Works Are Disappointing, 1:14

ii. Man’s Works Are Dismaying, 1:15

❖ The Bentness of Things, 1:15a

❖ The Bankruptcy of Things, 1:15b



(2) His Further Quest: To Explore His Wisdom, 1:16-18

(a) His Success, 1:16

(b) His Search, 1:17-18

i. His Goal 1:17a

ii. His Gloom, 1:17b

iii. His Grief, 1:18

Solomon closes chapter one with grief and sorrow:

Eccl. 1:18 For in much wisdom *is* **much grief**: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth **sorrow**.

hedonism

the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good.

devotion to pleasure as a way of life:

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/hedonism?s=t>

Jesus gave an example of a successful businessman:

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, **This will I do: I will** pull down my barns, and build greater; and there **will I** bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And **I will say to my soul**, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; **take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.**

20 But **God said unto him, Thou fool**, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 **So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**

b. The World of Thrills, 2:1-3

(1) Life's Entertaining Thrills, 2:1-2

(a) Solomon's Decision, 2:1a-b

i. To Seek Things to Make Him Laugh, 2:1a **"I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth..."**

Prov. 17:22 **A merry heart doeth good like a medicine:** but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

❖ The Bible does not mention "fun," but does mention "joy."

Psa. 16:11 Thou wilt shew **me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy;** at **thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.**

ii. To Seek Things to Massage His Lusts, 2:1b “...therefore enjoy pleasure...”

(b) Solomon’s Disappointment, 2:1c “...and, behold, this also *is* vanity.”

(c) Solomon’s Declaration, 2:2

i. The World of Thrills is Dangerous, 2:2a “I said of laughter, *It is* mad...”

ii. The World of Thrills is Deceptive, 2:2b “...and of mirth, What doeth it?”

(2) Life's Enslaving Thrills, 2:3

(a) Turning to Wine as an Intended Source of Intoxication, 2:3a “**I sought in mine heart** to give myself unto wine...”

Prov. 20:1 **Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.**

(b) Turning to Wine as an Imagined Source of Inspiration, 2:3b “...yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what *was* that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.”

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

❖ Verse three is an example of Epistemology.

Epistemology is the study of the **nature** and **scope** of **knowledge** and **justified belief**.

c. The World of Things, 2:4-11

(1) What He Accomplished, 2:4-6

(a) Magnificent Palaces, 2:4a “**I made me** great works; **I builded me** houses...”

(b) Magnificent Parklands, 2:4b-5 “...**I planted me** vineyards: 5 **I made me** gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all *kind of* fruits...”

(c) Magnificent Pools, 2:6

Eccl. 2:6 **I made me** pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

(2) What He Accumulated, 2:7-8

(a) All Kinds of People, 2:7a “**I got me** servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house...”

❖ Solomon knew the value of human resources.

(b) All Kinds of Possessions, 2:7b-8a

i. Countless Cattle, 2:7b “...also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:”

ii. Cold Cash, 2:8a “**I gathered me** also silver and gold...”

1 Kings 10:14 **Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,**

15 Beside *that he had* of the merchantmen, and of the traffick of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country.

1 talent = 3,000 shekels = 75 pounds = 1,093.75 troy ounces =
(x \$1500/oz.) \$1,640,625 x 666 = **\$1,092,656,250 per year.**
(almost 25 tons of gold)

(c) All Kinds of Power, 2:8b “...and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces...”

(d) All Kinds of Performers, 2:8c “...**I gat** me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, *as* musical instruments, and that of all sorts.”

(3) What He Avowed, 2:9-10

(a) That He Retained All His Discretion, 2:9

Eccl. 2:9 So **I was great**, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

Dan. 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, **that I have built** for the house of the kingdom **by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?**

(b) That He Realized All His Desires, 2:10

Eccl. 2:10 And **whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy**; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

❖ The empirical experiment was very thorough.

Job 31:1 **I made a covenant with mine eyes**; why then should I think upon a maid?

(4) What He Acknowledged, 2:11

(a) His Enterprise Considered, 2:11a “Then I looked on **all the works that my hands had wrought**, and on **the labour that I had laboured to do...**”

(b) His Emptiness Confessed, 2:11b “...and, **behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and *there was no profit under the sun.***”

Eccl. 8:17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done **under the sun**: because though a man labour to seek *it* out, yet he shall not find *it*; yea further; **though a wise man think to know *it*, yet shall he not be able to find *it*.**

Conclusion

1 Tim. 6:6 But **godliness with contentment** is great gain.

7 For **we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.**

8 And having food and raiment **let us be therewith content.**

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.



Luke 11:31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, **behold, a greater than Solomon is here.** (Mt. 12:42)

Jn. 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

Jn. 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: **ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.**

