

## **Ecclesiastes 2 A Wild Goose Chase True North, Part 2**

### **When will you be happy? What will it take?**

**A) This is the mindset of a lot of people today – happiness is eluding them because – something is missing.**

**B) I will be happy when.....**

- 1) Make more money.**
- 2) Get a new Job.**
- 3) Find the right man/woman.**
- 4) Lose weight**
- 5) Take that trip**

**C) That is the way much of the world thinks today!**

**D) We all want to be happy joyous people – That is what we are working toward.**

**1) Hoping for – looking for. – What is the missing element?**

### **The life of Solomon becomes sort of an experiment for the rest of us.**

**A) He lived his life with great vigor – pursuing passionately and obtaining all the things that pp pursue in this life to make them happy.**

**B) The theme of this part of Solomon’s life could be MORE –**

**1) More wealth, more pleasure, more power, more sex, more possessions**

**C) Solomon literally was able to capture the best of everything – and yet he reports at the end of his life that – it was all vanity – meaningless**

**D) Talked about the definition of that word – last week – Left him out of breath.**

**E) Life apart from God – leaves you breathless!**

### **That is the point – I want you to remember as we study this portion tonight –**

**A) None of these things that Solomon pursued after in and of themselves is wrong – or pointless**

**B) They become pointless when we take them out of the context of God’s design –**

**1) And make them the focus of our achieving – happiness, joy, fulfillment, and satisfaction.**

### **V.1 I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also was vanity.**

**A) Solomon says I started off trying to be happy by chasing pleasure.**

**B) How many of you like Pleasure!**

**C) Pleasure is not a dirty word.**

“The state of being pleased or gratified.”

“A source of enjoyment or delight.”

**What brings you pleasure?**

A) Walk on the beach – great sunset – good waves

Maui – warm water – snorkeling

B) Nice shoes – Good food – Chicken Shrimp on the barbecue – warm day – **water 85 – nice breeze.**

1) Fresh brewed ice tea. - Amazing

C) I like pleasure: If I have a choice pleasure or pain

1) Pleasure every time.

D) Nice day at the **beach** or a day in the **dentist chair.**

1) Nice **bike ride** –mission bay or **pulling weeds.**

2) Free weeks stay at Motel 6 or 5 Star resort.

3) **First class or Coach** – not feeling guilty.

E) Praising the Lord that – George asked me and not Eddie.

Pleasure is ok! – But it is not the end all – Solomon said I sought happiness in pleasure – left me gasping for breath.

**Tried Comedy V.2 “I said of laughter — "Madness!"; and of mirth, "What does it accomplish?"**

A) I like comedy –find me a good clean comedian – save it on my computer – favorites – like to laugh.

B) We need to laugh – laughter in Church is a blessed thing. – Joy is wonderful – **TOO SERIOUS.**

1) God gave us that emotion.

**C) Healthy: Laughter is good for you**

We change physiologically when we laugh. We stretch muscles throughout our face and body, our **pulse** and blood pressure go up, and we breathe faster, sending more oxygen to our tissues.

Experts who say the benefits of laughter say it can be like a mild **workout** –

D) **Back to the gym** – missed it – Comedy Video – climb in bed and laugh.

E) Growing up Cosby – every Thursday – laugh as a family.

1) Camp – **Cutting out TV** – I’ll be in my room reading and praying – Soot yourself –

2) I hear them out there laughing – this stinks

**Solomon says I looked for happiness in comedy – but that didn’t do it either.**

A)Next he tried drinking – **V. 3 I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.**

B) Wine connoisseur- Best wine – best grapes – v.4 Grew his own vineyards –

1) Nope that didn’t do it either –

C) Great wine but – not in that either

1) V.4 – Built houses – Plural.

**Ever think – it would be nice to own a few different homes.**

A) Summer condo – Maui – Cabin in the Mountains

–

B) Solomon built houses – Main home took 13 yrs to build – unlimited resources

C) Wedding at a home in **Rancho Santa Fe**

1) Huge 25K sq feet – everything – separate workout room – great view – no excuse

D) Great living room – huge kitchen – amazing entry way – Entertainment room – Big screen

1) This would be nice – someone gave it too you

Solomon had the **home of homes** – Cribs

**5 I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.**

**He Planted gardens –Became a botanist- V. 5, 6**

A) Do you enjoy gardens? Botanical gardens – forest out in the Mountains

B) I think we like that because that is where man started is in a garden – built into us.

1) Enjoy the beauty

C) Solomon – best gardens – beautiful – Pools of water –

1) I love water – love fountains – love the sound – fountains – running water

D) If it were practical and affordable – all over the new Property – Water fountains – water of life

1) All running into Baptismal water fall

E) Solomon – wasn't it Botany either.

No solace in his gardens alone!

**V.7 I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me.**

A) Wouldn't it be great to have people who did all the stuff that you don't like to do?

B) Mow the lawn – wash the car, pull the weeds, Take out the trash. Clean the house – do the laundry

C) Go to a hotel – my wife picks up making the bed – there are pp paid for that.

1) Don't deprive them

D) Solomon had a lot of servants – told in 2kings he fed everyday 35K pp

### How about wealth?

A) Wouldn't it be great to be rich – Some of you thinking – great to not be in debt!

Solomon was rich, stinking rich **V8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces.**

B) Wouldn't it be great to never have to worry about balancing your Check book – just didn't matter

C) That was Solomon's life – other Kings paid him 25k tons of gold every year.

1) Richest man who has ever lived.

### Like Music?

**V8b I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds.**

A) Imagine your favorite artist in different rooms  
Classical pianist – Chris Tomlin Devotions

B) U2 Back yard – Bono Joshua tree today

C) Wouldn't that be great – Solomon had that?

Popular and well liked?

**9 So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. 10 Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure,**

**What ever my eyes desired - Didn't withhold any pleasure!**

A) Sex – 700 wives – 300 concubines – sexual gratification. – whatever fantasy. Blond brunette.

**For my heart rejoiced in all my labor;  
And this was my reward from all my labor.**

B) This statement reveals a major part of the problem with Solomon –

1) Solomon looked at every thing he had accomplished and everything he had amassed and thought –

C) Everything he sought to indulge himself in as this is my reward – this is what I deserve for everything that I have done. MY GREATNESS

**Think back to Solomon's beginning. Solomon what do you want? Wisdom!**

A) Because you didn't ask for wealth, power, popularity - but wisdom to govern – I am going to give you what you didn't ask for too!

B) God gave to Solomon – wealth, power, popularity. Possessions – as a Blessing.

C) But instead of seeing those things as a blessing from God – Solomon saw them as his own achievements –

1) The END ALL – FULFILLMENT IN THEM

**11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.**

A) Theologian Peter Kreeft – A wild goose chase with no goose.

B) Looking for fulfillment in any of those things apart from God.

1) Chasing the wind!

**V.12-17 Solomon says – I tried to approach pleasure like a wild fool – reckless abandon - party rock star**

A) I tried to approach it – more intelligently in wisdom

B) Either way – left me frustrated and depressed.

C) Nothing has changed – we are the most affluent society, successful society – technologically advanced society – on the planet.

D) Yet we are the most unhappy and depressed!

**V.12 – Solomon says – No one is going to do this better than the King! – I did it all!**

A) Yet people today have a hard time believing his conclusion

**B) The great truth that Solomon is trying to get across to us is we were built to worship God and not the stuff that God gives to us.**

C) The stuff in and of it self is good – not bad at all.

**Think about this: God gave to Solomon Power, Prosperity, and Popularity – Ability to enjoy Pleasure.**

A) There is nothing wrong with those things.

B) Money is not evil – it is the love of money .....evil.

C) It is not that music or sex, or pleasure, or possessions, a house, car, career are meaningless

D) They become meaningless and the thing that leaves us out of breath when I detach those things from God.

**God is the creator of all good things! Man is God's greatest creation -**

A) Like a Dad – glove – let's play catch  
Bike lets go for a ride – surfboard – surf.

B) I got you something and I want to enjoy it with you.

1) That is God's heart – Beautiful sunset – His kiss

We say thanks God

C) Everything made for our enjoyment – enjoy it in relationship with Him – Not apart –

**That is the Problem – we try to find satisfaction in the creation rather than in the creator.**

A) That is where Solomon lost his truth north – his inner compass –

B) He made the fatal mistake – which many make – of seeking satisfaction apart from God.

1) In the things that God made or gave instead of in God himself.

C) Paul writes about this same Problem in Romans 1 Turn

Romans 1:18-20

**18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**

**The Problem is a heart problem – they suppress the truth – Push it away –**

A) Ignore reject it – Hosea my pp are destroyed wiped out for lack of knowledge ..... rejected

B) That there is a God – and that he can be known is made clear – evidence all around –

1) Creation - Screams – Designer – creator

C) But they ignore that – detach themselves from that {Pursue fulfillment in Creation instead of creator

**20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, Attitude today – we have our talk shows / blogs / write books / TV shows – espousing our opinion they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.**

Lower God make him like us – or make him like the animals –

RD V.24-31

Phrase God gave them over!

Solomon made pursuing pleasure his god – and God gave him over to it to stew in his own demise  
Left him empty and breathless

**So what is the answer? Get rid of everything – become monks and hermits – Amish**

**A) The Problem is not an academic Problem.**

**B) This is the mistake that both the world and the Church make.**

**The world says – happiness and Satisfaction are found in ADDITION – MORE**

**A) More money, more stuff, more sex, more alcohol  
More food, MORE MORE MORE**

**B) The Church says no happiness and satisfaction are found in SUBTRACTION – LESS**

**A) This is the mistake many in the Church make – we think that to keep true North – I need to deny myself of everything that I enjoy.**

**B) Cut out TV – might see a bad program – no music accept Christian**

**1) Sex is just for procreation – a lot of kids or be miserable.**

**C) Too much leisure is wrong – because I really need to always be serving.**

**Christians – go to a ballgame and then make excuses for it – feel bad – wasted time – free tickets etc**

**A) Christians who never go on vacation – feel like they don't deserve it bad stewards**

**B) Couples who never spend quality time together or have fun – all about – the kids – ministry serving**

**C) The first century Church that mentality was called Asceticism – Deprive my flesh of everything good**

**1) Pleasure is wrong. {Trying to be a good Christian  
Not doing anything I enjoy – Bible / Church**

**Not true – Not God's heart**

**A) OT God created feast and festivals – yes there was a spiritual connotation – but also big party**

**B) Involved eating and drinking – celebrating – feast  
Fun – celebrative**

**C) Jesus liked to eat and to Drink – called a glutton  
and a wine – bibber –**

**D) God inspired the Book of Song of Solomon**

**1) Book about Romance and Sex**

**E) I enjoy it – God intended us too!**

**Too many believers God is the big Archie bunker in the sky – always upset – better not be having any fun!**

**A) Motto of some believers is if it feels good**

**REPENT**

**Must be wrong.**

**B) Listen – God wired you to enjoy his creation – that is why food tastes good.**

**1) Music is enjoyable**

**2) Comedy makes you laugh – wired with emotions**

**C) That is why holding the person you love is such a great thing.**

**1) Because God had knit your body in such a way where the creator wants you to enjoy His creation.**

**But understand that is all the creation is – A means by which the creator has made to bless you.**

**A) For you to understand – God you made this MT I am skiing on for me. – Thank you.**

**B) You made this steak I am eating – For me to enjoy Thank you – You are awesome**

**1) You gave this person the ability to make beautiful music – I am enjoying thanks - Amazing**

**C) You made these waves I am surfing on – thanks**

**D) You invented Sex – to be explored and enjoyed by me and my spouse – thank you God – Incredible**

**E) Gave me an ability- a career – make a living – thank you Lord**

**All of the thing that God has made are blessing to being enjoyed – that show His love**

**A) They are not the end all!**

**B) That is the mistake that Solomon made – that is the mistake that too many make today!**

**C) Chasing after something they think is the End all I will be happy when I catch this .....**

**D) Happiness comes from God – True pleasure is found in enjoying his Creation**

**1) Worshipping the Creator.**