



Part 2: The Insanity of Destructive Pleasures – Sin

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

1. Read **Ecclesiastes 2:1-3**. What does “vanity” (Hebrew – “hebel”) mean here? _____

a. What does it look like when we turn the gift of laughter into a “god?” _____

b. Why are the pleasures of drunkenness so tempting? _____

c. How can eating food become like getting drunk? _____

d. What bodily appetite do you struggle most with controlling? How can reflecting on the word “vanity” help you here? _____

2. Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-11 along with 1 Kings 11:3. Write down the types of pleasures King Solomon has access to. _____

a. To what extent could Solomon have what he wanted? **See v. 10.** _____

b. What would many believe life would be like if they could trade with Solomon? Why? _____

c. What was Solomon’s conclusion about the endless pleasures this world offers? _____

d. In your weaker moments, why is his conclusion hard for you to believe? Slowly reflect. _____

e. Why is his illustration of “striving after wind” helpful in turning you away from sinful pleasures? _____

f. Fill in the blanks for the Theme of Ecclesiastes – There is no _____ satisfaction
_____ from _____.

3. Read **Hebrews 3:13** and **Ephesians 4:22** along with **Hebrews 12:16**; **Matthew 4:8-9**; **Matthew 26:14-16**; and **Jeremiah 2:13**. What does sin lead you to do with what is valuable and what is worthless? Give an example of where you struggle here in your life. _____

a. Why is this so destructive? _____

b. How does this all ultimately relate to God? _____

c. Name a worthless thing (or attitude, pursuit, goal) you've recently given worth to (valued).
Write a prayer for help here. _____

4. What do the following verses teach us about the gospel? **John 10:10**; **John 8:12**; **1 Peter 3:18**?

a. Read **Matthew 14:44-46**. Why is Jesus *The Treasure of the universe*? What happens when we encounter Him according to the parable? _____

b. Why is sin the thing we do when our hearts are not satisfied in God? _____

c. Why is fighting the lesser pleasures of sin with the GREATER pleasures found in Jesus central to breaking from patterns of sin and sinful temptations? Consider **Psalm 16:11**. _____

5. What is your main take away from this teaching? _____