

God's Good Gifts – Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

²⁴ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶ For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Leading up to these verses, we heard how Solomon looked for meaning in all sorts of temporal things and was devastated when they couldn't deliver:

Ecc 2:10 Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure.

Ecc 2:17 So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind... ²⁰So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun.

- 1) In what ways does Solomon misunderstand temporal things?**
- 2) We make the same mistakes. How have you seen the elevation or denigration of temporal things in your life?**
- 3) What is the proper, biblical way to understand the things of this world?**

The things of this world (secular) are not redemptive nor inherently sinful. They are part of God's design. The key thing is how we relate to them.

- 4) Why is God's redemptive work for us in Jesus foundational to be able to glorify him with secular things?**
- 5) What are some key characteristics of engaging the secular world in a way that glorifies God?**

In a world under the curse of sin, where we still deal with our flesh, it is hard to relate to temporal things well.

- 6) What are some ways you see resistance in yourself to enjoying good, living with a thankful disposition toward God, and practicing generosity towards others?**
- 7) How can we encourage each other in these things as a church?**

Let's pray for each other regarding the things we just spoke of, as well as:

- **Are there any ways you have seen the Lord's goodness that we can rejoice in?**
- **Are there any burdens of sin or suffering you have now that we can help to carry?**