

IS LIVING FOR PLEASURE THE ANSWER?  
ECCLESIASTES 2:1–11  
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**Introduction:**

Ecclesiastes is a wisdom search to solve “hebel”: Life under the sun is fleeting, futile, frustrating, and at times seems absurd and meaningless.

Is focusing our lives on pleasure the answer to life’s frustration?

**Context: Ecclesiastes 1:14,18**

Gaining wisdom is not a bad thing (Solomon tells us later that it’s a good thing), but it does not solve the “hebel” problem.

**Ecclesiastes 2:1-3**

1) Sounds fun!

2) His perspective on “the day after”

3) “Have you really tried every angle, every possibility?”

**Ecclesiastes 2:4-8**

Work as fulfillment

Riches as fulfillment

Entertainment as fulfillment

Sex as fulfillment

## **Ecclesiastes 2:9-11**

Greatness/honor/reputation as fulfillment

We would see this as a life of great accomplishment, but he is not fooled.

“We have more of almost everything than any generation in history, except for more happiness.”

The piling up of the key terms in Ecclesiastes may show his bitter frustration.

### **Conclusion:**

God is not against pleasure. Enjoyment of life is a theme in Ecclesiastes.

But two cautions:

- 1.
- 2.

What's missing?

Living for God not a drab, joyless life. It means enjoying what God gives with thankfulness. “The more you believe living for pleasure will not be the path to fulfillment, the more you can enjoy the pleasures God gives you.”

Practical application: thank list