

February 13, 2022 | Pastor Keith Krell
Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26 | “Trivial Pursuits”

Sermon Application Review from Ecclesiastes 1:1–11

How did you ponder the fleeting nature of life this past week (1:1–7)?

How did you pursue eternal gain while living “under the sun” (1:3; cf. Matthew 16:26; Psalm 90:12)?

Scripture References

Ecclesiastes 1:12–2:26

1 Corinthians 3:18–23

Isaiah 55:8–9

Job 11:7–8

Philippians 3:7–14

Jeremiah 9:23–24

John 17:1–3

Study Questions

1. What role does education play in your life? How important is learning to you? Can you balance knowledge and humility? How have you seen wisdom to be a “grievous task” (1:13, 18)? Will you be a lifelong learner that is willing to recognize the limitations of wisdom and education? Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–2:10; 3:18–23.
2. Do you love God more than you love the pleasures of life (2:1–11)? Are the pleasures God gives you reminders of your gracious and loving heavenly Father? Are your pleasures the catalysts by which you serve Him more effectively and enjoy Him more fully?
3. What is your perspective on the death of people (2:14–16)? Have you fully acknowledged the transient nature of your own life? How has this mindset affected your pursuit of pleasure and management of time? Read Ephesians 5:15–17.
4. What is your philosophy of work (2:18–23)? Read Genesis 1:26–28 to learn God’s original purpose. Have you looked to work to satisfy your desires for significance? If so, how can you begin to recognize that this is not the purpose of work? Read Colossians 3:22–25.
5. How can the reality of death give you the perspective to enjoy life (2:24–26)? Have you learned to enjoy life? What are the things you most enjoy? How can you glorify God in them? Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. How can you slow down your pace of life and enjoy God’s good gifts? Who can you enjoy a good meal with? How can you celebrate the goodness of God in your life?

Recommended Reading

J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul* (NavPress, 1997)

Doug Sherman and William D. Hendricks, *Your Work Matters to God* (NavPress, 1990)

Gary Thomas, *Pure Pleasure: Why Do Christians Feel So Bad about Feeling Good?* (Zondervan, 2009)