

AUG 21
2022

REALITY CHECK

Discovering life's meaning
in the book of Ecclesiastes
WEEK 3



Pursuing The Good Life

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 *Everything I Ever Wanted*

¹ I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. ² "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" ³ I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. *I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.*

I undertook great projects: I built **houses**...planted **vineyards**...made **gardens** and **parks**...bought male and female **slaves**...owned more **herds** and **flocks** than anyone in Jerusalem before me...amassed **silver** and **gold**...acquired male and female **singers**, and a **harem**...I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.

¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God,.. 1 Kings 11:3-4

Ecclesiastes 2:12-16 *Mr. Know It All*

¹² Then I turned my thoughts to consider wisdom, and also madness and folly. What more can the king's successor do than what has already been done? ¹³ I saw that wisdom is better than folly, just as light is better than darkness. ¹⁴ The wise have eyes in their heads, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both. ¹⁵ Then I said to myself, "The fate of the fool will overtake me also. What then do I gain by being wise?" I said to myself, "This too is meaningless." ¹⁶ For the wise, like the fool, will not be long remembered; the days have already come when both have been forgotten. Like the fool, the wise too must die!

It is not that nothing matters in this world, it is that nothing in this world lasts, **including** the things that matter.

Ecclesiastes 2:21-26 *Workaholic*

²¹ For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? ²³ All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God. ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶ To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. *This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.*

No one can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for them— the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough— so that they should live on forever and not see decay. For all can see that the wise die, that the foolish and the senseless also perish, leaving their wealth to others.

Psalm 49:7-10

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. 1 Timothy 2:5-6