



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM OCTOBER 22/23 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out biblechapel.org/sermons.

Scripture from this week's sermon: [Ecclesiastes 2:1-11](#)

1) Read [Ecclesiastes 2:1-11](#).

This past weekend, we studied the aspect of “pleasure” found in this section of Ecclesiastes. We said specifically in this passage the Hebrew word (הֵנַחֵשׁ) points to “sensory happiness” of the flesh, and Solomon, to the fullest extent, pursued self-indulgence of the flesh in all the areas listed in v.2-8 to satisfy his heart.

Of all the areas Solomon experimented for lasting pleasure (laughter/entertainment, wine/alcohol, work, achievements, other people, possessions, money, sex, etc.), which area have you personally struggled with in regard to seeking (at times) lasting pleasure in lieu of God?

2) Read [Ecclesiastes 2:9-11](#).

We said this weekend, that after all his experience of pursuing self-indulgent pleasure to the fullest, Solomon's conclusion was:

Self-indulgent Pleasure Leads To (Eccl. 2:11):

“Vanity” – meaningless results

“Striving after wind” – empty, wandering purpose

“Nothing to be gained” – no lasting advantage

Discuss his conclusion - what takeaways do you take from Solomon's response to his experiment in v.9-11?

- 3) We said this weekend that the Hebrew word (הִמְדָּשׁ) can also have a different sense to its meaning as it's used the majority of time in Scripture not for self-indulgence, but instead is represented as lasting "gladness, joy, delight, rejoice" found in right relationship with God.

Take time by giving everyone one of the following verses to read that uses this word (הִמְדָּשׁ) in connection to a proper relationship with God.

[Psalm 51:7-8](#), [Psalm 68:3](#), [Psalm 100:2](#), [Jeremiah 15:16](#), [1 Chronicles 29:9](#), [1 Chronicles 29:22](#), [Nehemiah 12:27](#), [Psalm 43:3-4](#), [Psalm 16:11](#)

After reading all the verses, what stuck out to you? Specifically, how true joy/gladness is only found in a right relationship with God?

- 4) We said this weekend, one conclusion we take from this week's study is:

The world's way offers temporary pleasure, and without Jesus, leads to eternal punishment.

As believers, we are eternally secure. Yet, we are still tempted every day to seek the temporary pleasures of this world.

How do believers avoid that trap?

- 5) Read [John 3:16-17](#).

We said this weekend, our other conclusion from this week's study is:

God's way offers lasting joy, beginning with trusting in Jesus, who gives eternal life.

Take extended time to pray for one another this week. Include in your prayer time being willing to share specifically any areas in your life where you've struggled recently pursuing God's way instead of the world's way.

