



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **Finding Satisfaction**
Series: **Chasing the Wind**
Text: **Ecclesiastes 2**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **July 12, 2026**

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, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness... — Ecclesiastes 2:24–26 (NIV)

THREE TESTS IN SEARCH OF SATISFACTION

1. THE _____ TEST - ‘if it feels good, it must be it’

*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. “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?” — Ecclesiastes 2:1–2 (NIV)*

*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. (Ec 2:3).*

*I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart **no pleasure**. (Ec 2:10).*

*Everything was meaningless, **a chasing after the wind**; nothing was gained under the sun. (Ec 2:11).*

So what’s the answer about _____?

“lovers of pleasure rather than **lovers of God**” (2 Timothy 3:4).

*Jesus told the Samaritan woman who had **run her own pleasure test** through five marriages,*

*Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but **whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst**. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. — John 4:13–14 (NIV)*

Pleasure makes a wonderful _____ but a terrible _____. Don’t seek satisfaction in pleasure; seek satisfaction in God, and He will give you pleasure that lasts forever.

2. THE _____ TEST - “if I achieve enough, I’ll finally measure up”

*I undertook **great projects**: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. — Ecclesiastes 2:4–6 (NIV)*

***I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem** before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. — Ecclesiastes 2:9 (NIV)*

*So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was **grievous to me**. All of it is meaningless, **a chasing after the wind**. (Ec 2:17).*

So how do you _____ the Measure Test?

*But **whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ**. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. — Philippians 3:7–8 (NIV)*

*“What good is it for someone **to gain the whole world**, yet forfeit their soul?” (Mark 8:36).*

3. THE _____ TEST - “if I own enough, I’ll finally be satisfied”

*I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also **owned more herds and flocks than anyone** in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. — Ecclesiastes 2:7–8 (NIV)*

***I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun**, because **I must leave them to the one who comes after me**. And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. — Ecclesiastes 2:18–19 (NIV)*

What did _____ say about your Treasure?

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But **store up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**. (Mt 6:19–21).*

Jesus doesn’t just warn us about treasure — He becomes our _____.

*“The kingdom of heaven is **like treasure hidden in a field**. When a man found it, he hid it again, and **then in his joy went** and sold all he had and bought that field” (Matthew 13:44).*

Life Under the _____ vs. Life Directed by the _____