UNDER THE SUN

Destitute in Destiny | Part 2 | Ecclesiastes 1:12–2:11

Central thought: The wisdom God gives us is meant to be lived out in His purpose—not spent searching for fulfillment in the flesh.

I. Wisdom and Folly: The Conflict Within

Ecclesiastes 1:12–18 — Solomon knew both godly wisdom and great folly. His wisdom did not disappear when he chose to live contrary to it.

• God-given wisdom and sinful desires pull in opposing directions.

• Knowing what is right makes disobedience more grievous (James 4:17).

• The more we know, the greater the sorrow when we knowingly choose sin (Ecclesiastes 1:18).

Consider: Where am I resisting what God has already taught me?

II. Mirth and Pleasure: Joy That Does Not Last

Ecclesiastes 2:1–2 — Solomon tested laughter and pleasure, but found them unable to provide lasting fulfillment.

• Laughter has its place, but momentary enjoyment is not the same as enduring joy.

• The joy of a moment is different from the fruit of the Spirit.

• Lasting joy comes from walking in and following the Spirit—even through mourning.

Consider: Am I pursuing temporary amusement in place of spiritual joy?

III. Accomplishment and Abundance: The Search Expands

Ecclesiastes 2:3–9 — Solomon pursued wine, great works, houses, gardens, possessions, wealth, and entertainment.

• God had given Solomon extraordinary wisdom, yet Solomon sought fulfillment “under the sun.”

• God did not remove that wisdom; it continued to expose the foolishness of his choices.

• We can learn from Solomon’s wasted effort rather than repeat it.

Consider: Am I using God’s gifts to pursue my own fulfillment or His purpose?

IV. The Verdict: Enjoyable Is Not Always Profitable

Ecclesiastes 2:10–11 — Solomon enjoyed the reward of his labor, yet concluded that it was “vanity and vexation of spirit.”

• An activity may be enjoyable without producing anything of lasting value.

• The question is not only whether something is permissible, but whether it is profitable and edifying (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23).

• Our works must be evaluated in light of Christ, the only foundation (1 Corinthians 3:9–17).

Consider: What will my next step build—something for me or something for God?

Personal Application

One choice I need to reconsider in light of God’s wisdom:

One step I can take this week to build on Christ:

Closing question: What will your next step build?