

Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26

LESSON 03

Vanity of Your Heart's Desire

1. Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 – The Search Begins

- a. 1:3-11 the perspective was you are nothing; but now it is all “I”
- b. What Eve desired, Solomon achieved - 1John 2:16 (Jesus was greater)
- c. He is going to be all he can be, suck the marrow out of life, one life to live
- d. *“I gave my heart to seek...”* – His search begins with his heart - 1:16, 1:17, 2:3, 2:10
 - i. Warning about the heart - Ps 10:3, Deu 29:19, Jer 7:23-24, 17:9; Eph 4:17-18
- e. *“vexation of spirit”* (9x) in Ecc 1-6 – stirring up trouble – what does? The search.
- f. *“crooked cannot... wanting cannot...”* – and society has not learned this yet
- g. *“grief and sorrow”* – why? Ignorance is bliss. 2 wisdoms - Jam 3:15-17; 1Co 3:18-20

2. Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 – The Heart's Desires

- a. Pleasure, parties, possessions ... no one lived it quite like Solomon
 - i. Laughter = it is mad (1 Cor 14:23); Mirth = does nothing - Prov 14:13
- b. Great works, houses, gardens, pools, servants, money, music, the heart's desire.
 - i. *“my heart rejoiced in all my labour”* – the work was better than the end
- c. 2:11 – At the end of the day, when you have “arrived”, nothing has changed.
- d. When you reach what is supposed to be climax and it fails to satisfy – Prov 13:12

3. Ecclesiastes 2:12-23 – The Heart's Despair

- a. Hopelessness and vexation sets in and suicide rates soar among celebs/rich/famous
- b. You can't go any higher once you've reached the top (“under the sun”)
- c. He turns back to wisdom, since there is nothing else to “do”
- d. The wise and the fool both die and are forgotten – what is the point of being wise?
- e. “I hated life” – when he thought of the vanity of its end (life without meaning)
- f. 2:21 - An introduction to chance/fortune – a fool's inheritance without merit.
- g. The heart, in trying to satisfy itself, takes no rest.

4. Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 – Nothing Better

- a. Eat, drink, and make his soul enjoy good in his labour.
- b. *“also I saw”* - He sees this was also from the hand of God – remember Gen 3:17-19
- c. *“more than I”* – The great Solomon acknowledges the best thing is enjoyed by all
- d. *“but to the sinner”* – Enjoyment depends upon acknowledging God's gift: Phm 6