



THE WISDOM OF ECCLESIASTES

06.12.16 | CHASING PURPOSE | ECCLESIASTES 2

1. CHASING PURPOSE UNDER THE SUN

What about pleasure?

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3

What about materialism?

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

What about wisdom?

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

What about my work?

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

2. THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION

The Problem: There is nothing in a person that can give

him/herself a sense of meaning or purpose.

Ecclesiastes 2:24

The Solution: The only way to find real meaning and purpose in life is by

getting in touch with something infinite. It must come from the

hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:25-26

FURTHER STUDY

1. When growing up, what was modeled or communicated to you as giving a person value and worth in life?

2. In Ecclesiastes 2 Solomon is not in a mid-life crisis but rather he is systematically trying to destroy all the common areas that people search for purpose and meaning in life. What makes you willing or unwilling to listen to his conclusions? Explain.

3. Why is Solomon so unhappy with what most people would consider great success?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 and answer the following questions.

1. In verses 4-8 Solomon lists all the accomplishments he used to seek after meaning. Name them and then compare his list to different avenues you have used to find meaning in life.

2. We know what Solomon's conclusion is, "There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere." At this stage of your life, how is your conclusion the same as, or different, than Solomon's?

3. What areas in life do you feel like you are chasing the wind?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:12-26 and answer the following questions.

1. How do you resonate with Solomon's conclusion that gaining wisdom and working hard – in and of themselves – do not bring meaning or satisfaction?

2. So then, what has honestly motivated you to do a day's work and along the way learn as much as you can?

3. Solomon reminds us that the only way to find real meaning and purpose in life is by getting in touch with something infinite. It must come from the hand of God. If that is true, how should that change the way you look at your life today? What will you do differently with your time, talents and gifts?

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