

Ecclesiastes 2:13-16—“Then I saw that wisdom excels folly

As light excels darkness.

¹⁴ The wise man’s eyes are in his head,

But the fool walks in darkness.

Yet I myself perceived

That the same event happens to them all.

¹⁵ So I said in my heart,

“As it happens to the fool,

It also happens to me,

And why was I then more wise?”

Then I said in my heart,

“ This also is vanity.”

¹⁶ For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever,

Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.

And how does a wise man die?

As the fool!”

#3: Solomon hated being (3)_____.

WHY: Being alive wasn’t special [AND] Being alive is (4)_____

– v. 17

Ecclesiastes 2:17—“Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.”

#4: Solomon hated building an inheritance.

WHY: His inheritance could be (5)_____ by somebody else – v. 18-24

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23—“Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun. ²¹ For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? ²³ For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.”

REMEMBER LAST WEEK’S CONCLUSION: Stop being obsessed with YOU!

“What is the True Purpose of Our Lives?”

Things That Don’t Guarantee Enjoyment in and of themselves:

• (6)_____ – v. 1-3

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3—“I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure”; but surely, this also was vanity. ² I said of laughter—“Madness!”; and of mirth, “What does it accomplish?” ³ I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.”

• (7)_____ – v. 4-8

Ecclesiastes 2:4-8—“I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. ⁵ I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove. ⁷ I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds.”

• (8)_____ – v. 9

Ecclesiastes 2:9—“So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.”

• (9)_____ – v. 10

Ecclesiastes 2:10—“Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them.

I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure,

For my heart rejoiced in all my labor;

And this was my reward from all my labor.”

END RESULT: Meaningless – v. 11

Ecclesiastes 2:11—“Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done

And on the labor in which I had toiled;

And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind.

There was no profit under the sun.”

God’s Plan for the Purpose of our Lives:

Ecclesiastes 2:24—“Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.”

God has created our lives and everything in them for our

(10)_____!

I Timothy 6:17-18—“ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”

• Do (11)_____.

• Be (12)_____.

• Enjoy!