

# THE GOOD LIFE - *Fulfillment*

January 23, 2023 Ecclesiastes 3:12, 2:1-11, 24-26

## OPENING QUESTION

If you knew for sure there was no God, no afterlife, no moral standard, what would you pursue?

## NO PURPOSE IN PLEASURE - Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

- When Solomon looks at life under the sun in chapter 1 and says, "There are no answers and there is no meaning" he then decides to try something else: pleasure.
- The experiment is to determine if pleasures provide any meaning for our human existence, but he finds that pleasure is fleeting.
- Solomon throws elaborate parties and includes all the pleasures he can find. It was an experiment in pleasure, very calculated.
- He found that pleasure in fact does not take away the pain, nor distract and give meaning.
- We turn to pleasure not just for pleasure, but a sense of worthwhileness and meaning.
- His problem was not lack of self-restraint; in his wisdom, he shows us that any attempt to find meaning in pleasure is meaningless, even if that attempt is by self-control.
- You were wired for pleasure, but God is the source of our pleasure, and is the author of all good things!

Are there things you pursue just for the pleasure of it? How do they align with God's purpose for you? Are any of those things just a cycle that ends up being a dead end? How can you realign your pursuit of pleasure with God's purpose?

## FIND PLEASURE IN PURPOSE - Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

- Throughout the book the Teacher will recommend enjoying life, but he warns that pleasure in and of itself does not give meaning to our existence.
- What is our meaning of existence? To BE with God. To BE in Christ and Christ in us. To abide. Be attached to Jesus!
- But he insists that people should learn how to enjoy the return they get on their labor, to enjoy and use the good things of life which are gifts from God. Those who are IN CHRIST should enjoy life more than any others.
- Life is empty without God. Our purpose is to BE IN Him
- Most of us are going down this path and pleasure is our bottom line.
- The further you go down the path of pleasure, the more you realize it's a dead end, and that only God can satisfy.
- The sovereignty of God, to believe that life is controlled by God, is a comfort and a pleasure.
- We can rest, abide, remain IN Him, and our lives will be meaningful.

Where do you find meaning in your life? Do you tend to pursue things that have no eternal value? What does God's sovereignty mean to you? How does it affect your daily pursuits?

# The Good Life

Ecclesiastes Study

## CLOSING QUESTIONS

### Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

### Obey

Have you found yourself pursuing pleasure for the sake of pleasure? What does it mean to say that God is a author of all good things? How will you align your pursuits to God's sovereignty this week? Where do you find the good life?

### Pray

Pray for God to prune the things from your life that distract you from abiding in Jesus and pursuing the His pleasure. Meditate on Colossians 3:1-4 and John 10:10.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." - Romans 15:13*