

Glorifying God is being persistent to honor God in the small things. Living without regret and dying without reserve. This is filling our days giving honor to God in all things.

- Solomon is seeking to know and understand the meaning of life as he begins in Eccl. 1:12-2:2.
- 1. **Experience of Pleasure:** Eccl. 2:3-8, Solomon drank wine to try to understand how the simpleminded lived life. V4, he built many great buildings and vineyards. V5, he made gardens and orchards. V6, he created forests and ways to water them. V7, he owned slaves, wives, and concubines (1 Kings 11). V9-11, Solomon had access to everything he could want and could do anything he liked or wanted to do.
  - a. V11, all is vanity and striving after wind.
- 2. **Examination of Wisdom:** V12-13, having wisdom is an advantage over the simpleminded. V14, the wise have eyes to see, the fool walks in darkness. In the end, the fool and wise have the same end in death. V15-16, the wise and fool both are forgotten even though they pursued their course. V17, the days are evil and the work we do is vanity.
  - a. We were created to live eternally and yet we die, nothing lasts.
- 3. **Exhaustion of Life:** V18-20, we leave all that we create and build to another. V21, he who has labored with wisdom and skill leaves all he has to another who did nothing for it. Sin causes death and destruction of all we seek to build.
  - a. We are ultimately dissatisfied with everything until we come to Christ. Once in Christ, we can enjoy everything.
  - b. Eccl. 8:15, gladness comes from a man enjoying the simplest things in life. Eccl. 11:9, the young man should enjoy his youth and set a course in life, with the knowledge that what he does, God will judge.
  - c. Eccl. 12:13, the end of the matter is to fear God and keep His commandments.
- 4. **Enjoyment of Everything:** 2:24-26, to the one who is good before God, God has given him his food and drink along with wisdom, knowledge, and gladness. V26, sinners receive the labor of gathering and collecting to give to those who are good before God.
  - a. Luke 9:24-25, the one who loses his life for the Lord's sake, saves it. Why profit in this world when none of it will last apart from Christ?

**Lessons from this text:**

- **Taste the grace of being humbled:** Eccl. 2:24-26, turn from false pleasure and seek the Lord and turn to Him to find fulfillment in life.
- **Live without regret, die without reserve:** be ready for it to end. Enjoy the moments you have been given. Take every moment seriously as a gift to enjoy.
- **Face the music:** know the Lord God through His Son Jesus Christ. Without Him there is no joy in life. Sinners strive after wind. Resource in dissatisfaction it is God pursuing you to come to Him.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

Why is setting our hearts and minds on things of this world so futile? 1 John 2:15-17 tells us why. What are the things in this world that last forever? What about our talents? Friends? Service to God? Money? Relationships in the Lord? Make a list of the temporary and eternal things of life.

How can you use Solomon's counsel in Ecclesiastes to instruct our young men and women? What would you tell them? What advice should they hear as they begin building their lives? What should they focus their effort and strength on?

The wisdom gleaned and received from Scripture exceeds all other wisdom. Eccl. 12:13 sums up the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments. How does actively seeking to obey the Lord give the surest foundation for life? How can you be assured that giving glory to God in all the daily things of life truly bring Him glory? How can we use our moments and days to glorify Him in our homes and with our families? What opportunities do we have to speak and share the Gospel?

How has your life found meaning and purpose in keeping the commands of Christ? Fellowship and relationship with the body of Christ is one aspect of obedience to the Lord. How does serving one another bring honor to God? Read Eph. 4:12-16. What is a simple way to describe the Christian life from this passage? Why do we serve? Why do we learn Scripture?