



January 19, 2020

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What's the Point of Pleasure? Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Some will experiment in risky ways to find pleasure. Ecclesiastes 2:1-2

"I said to myself, 'Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.' And behold, it too was futility." (v. 1)

- Pleasure = to be joyful and glad in heart and mind.
- God is not opposed to "pleasure" which is found in the following:
 - wine *Psalm 104:15; Ecclesiastes 10:19*
 - ointment and perfume *Proverbs 27:9*
 - a wise son *Proverbs 15:20; 10:1; 27:11*
 - a kind word *Proverbs 12:25*
 - meeting a loved one *Exodus 4:14*
 - God's law *Exodus 19:8*
 - the increase of the righteous *Proverbs 29:2*
 - God's feasts *Nehemiah 12:43*

Our Problem: We may find pleasure in the wrong places. Ecclesiastes 2:3-10

- Pleasure from sensual indulgence and frivolous activities. (v. 3) 1 Kings 11:1–6
"I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine..."
- Possessions we acquire. (v. 4-8) Proverbs 30:7-9; 1 Timothy 6:9-10
"I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself (v. 4)... Also I collected for myself silver and gold..." (v.8)
- Power and Prestige over others. (v. 9-10) Philippians 2:3-8
"Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem..." (v.9)

God's Conclusion: Life becomes worthless when you find pleasure in all the wrong places.

Ecclesiastes 12:11

"Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity [worthless] and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun."

Our Solution: Turn to God's truth to find pleasure and avoid a worthless life. Ecclesiastes 12:13

"The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person." (v.13)

Two examples of God's truth for pleasure seekers:

- Ecclesiastes 9:11 – *"I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all." Also see Psalm 49*
- Jeremiah 9:23–24 – *"Thus says the LORD, 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight [find pleasure] in these things,' declares the LORD."*

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What in life gives you pleasure? Look at the list on the front of the outline under the first point. How many items in that list do you enjoy?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 2** and note how many ways Solomon tried to find pleasure. How do you relate to his attempts at finding pleasure?
3. **Read Jeremiah 9:23-24**. What should you not boast about in your life? Reflect on why Jeremiah said not to boast about those areas. Did he say they are sinful? What should our perspective and hope should we have for life according to the last part of Jeremiah 9:24? How can you live that way?

Next Steps:

GROUPS & GATHERINGS SEASON LAUNCH PARTY | TODAY AT 11:00 am: Come explore ways to deepen and grow in your faith by connecting with others in community this season. Join us today at 11:00 am in the Lobby for the Groups and Gatherings Launch Party, and check out our featured Sunday morning gatherings below. Discover more and browse opportunities online at calvarylife.org/groups

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY

Learn to slow down and grow in your relationship with Jesus by maturing in healthy, life-giving ways. Led by Matt Doan in B-205.

TOUGH QUESTIONS, CONFIDENT ANSWERS

Parents, grandparents, and influencers of youth- be equipped to answer the questions confronting youth today. Led by Scott Van Essen in C-209.

HOW SPIRITUAL GIFTS INFLUENCE RELATIONSHIPS

Learn how your spiritual gifts impact your communication with God, others, and your role in the church body. Led by Desiree Elrod in C-208.

MULTIPLY: A BIBLICAL GUIDE TO INVESTING

Gain the knowledge, confidence, and biblical foundation you need to invest successfully and live generously. Led by Ray Pertierra in G-211.

In Today's Service:

GIVING: The offering is received each Sunday as a way to express trust in God and worship Him through giving. It's also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of giving 10% as a baseline, but the New Testament calls Jesus' followers to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping further ministry locally and globally. Discover ways to give on the envelope in the seatbacks or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have pastoral staff and elders available to pray with you at the end of the service. They are available to pray with you for anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else. In addition, you can submit a request using The Card in the seat backs or visit calvarylife.org/prayer