



Ecclesiastes

Teacher: Ruth Christian

©Naomi's Table 2015

Lesson 4 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Pray

Review: Last time, we saw Solomon look for the meaning of life in wisdom - wisdom as it can be understood *apart* from eternity. He found no meaning in skillful, wise living *under the sun*. Solomon had the means and the authority to do just about anything his heart desired. Now he continued his search for meaning by testing his own heart to see how he would respond to two very common experiences of life: **pleasure**/amusement and **works**/employment. Would he find the meaning to life in these?

Reflect:

1. *Read all of chapter 2.* In verses 1 & 2, Solomon tested the meaning of life through what? What was his conclusion?
2. *Read verses 1-11,* and list what things Solomon examined in his search for the meaning to life.
3. Solomon experimented with one thing after another, always applying what, according to verse 3 & 9?
4. What 2 common experiences in life did Solomon use to test his life?
 - a. *(Ecclesiastes 2:1-3)*
 - b. *(Ecclesiastes 2:4-11)*
5. How did Solomon respond to his test of enjoyment (pleasure)? Why is it important he didn't see God as a "celestial kill-joy"?
6. The Hebrew people rightly believed that God made man to enjoy the blessings that come from Him. How do the following verses show this to be true then and now?
 - a. Psalm 104
 - b. 1 Tim. 6:17

7. Solomon specifically mentioned wine and laughter as two sources of pleasure used in his experience. *Read 1 Kings 4:22-23; 10:21; and Ecclesiastes 2:8.* How do these verses illustrate this source of pleasure? Why did these pleasures fall short of answering Solomon's questions? How do people today pursue similar sources of pleasure?

8. In Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, Solomon got involved in many great works with great workers. What works of Solomon do the following verses speak of?

- a. 1 Kings 7
- b. 2 Chron. 8:4-6
- c. 1 Kings 4:33
- d. 1 Kings 5ff

9. What does Ecclesiastes 2:7b-8a, tell us about Solomon?

Respond:

1. Why is the entertainment business so successful in America? Why are we obsessed with having fun? What does this say about our culture? What are the benefits of pursuing pleasure? What are the dangers? How are these evidenced in your life? Do you think you should make some changes in your pursuit of pleasure?

1. How can employment help us find purpose and value in life? In what ways did Solomon seek fulfillment through work? How is the pursuit of wealth different from seeking significance through work? What does Solomon's experience teach us about these pursuits?