

I SOUGHT IN MINE HEART

ECCLESIASTES 2

Text: Ecc. 2:3

(Ecclesiastes 2:3) "I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life."

Introduction:

Solomon looked at earthly wisdom to satisfy his desire, but discovered that wisdom in and of itself cannot answer all questions, nor make one happy. He then continues his search here in chapter 2.

Our text tells us where this search led him. He says "I sought in mine heart." We must be careful in following such a course. For the Word of God says "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

Notice

1. THE FUTILE ATTEMPT

A. Pleasures Experienced (v. 2-3)

(Ecclesiastes 2:2-3) "I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it? {3} I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life."

1. Laughter
2. Mirth (Gleefulness)
3. Wine

B. Possessions Enjoyed (v. 4-6)

(Ecclesiastes 2:4-6) "I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: {5} I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: {6} I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:"

1. Great works
2. Houses
3. Vineyards

4. Gardens & Fruit trees

5. Pools of water

C. Personnel Employed

(Ecclesiastes 2:7) "I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:"

D. Possessions Extended (v. 7-8)

(Ecclesiastes 2:7-8) "I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: {8} I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts."

1. Cattle

2. Silver & Gold

3. Peculiar treasure

E. Professional Entertainment

(Ecclesiastes 2:8) "I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts."

1. Singers (v. 8)

2. Musicians (v. 8)

F. Personal Evaluation (v. 9)

(Ecclesiastes 2:9) "So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me."

As far as the world standards are concerned this man was successful. Notice the adjectives used in this description.

1. I was great.

2. Wealthier than all

3. Smarter than all

2. FACTUAL ASSESSMENT

Things are not always what they appear to be on the surface. No doubt that the world and those observers

of Solomon would have considered him a success, but notice how Solomon really felt about this futile attempt for happiness.

(Ecclesiastes 2:11) "Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."

(Ecclesiastes 2:17-18) "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit. {18} Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me."

- A. Vanity and vexation. (v. 11)
- B. No profit (v. 11)
- C. Hated life
- D. Hated the results of his labor.

Illustration:

Only one life and will soon be passed, only what is done for Christ will last, all other will be left behind.

3. FINAL ANALYSIS (v. 24, 26)

(Ecclesiastes 2:24) "There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God."

(Ecclesiastes 2:26) "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit."

A. The ability to enjoy life comes from God's hand. (v. 24)

B. God gives to those that live righteously and seek Him, instead of seeking the things of the world:

1. Wisdom & knowledge
2. Joy

C. To the sinner he gives:

1. Travail in heaping up things only to see them evaporate and given to whom God deems worthy.

2. Certainly such an experience is for the sinner, vanity and vexation.

Principles

1. Pleasures, Possessions, Personnel, Professionals, and high self esteem cannot do or provide what Gad can and does provide.

2. Doing or seeking such will leave your heart in despair.

(Ecclesiastes 2:20) "Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun."

Close:

What have you set your heart to seek after, the Lord or something else?

(Colossians 3:2) "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."