



The Search for Satisfaction

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

□ Thank God for under-the-sun pleasures.

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□ **Caution: Under-the-sun pleasures are...**

- **Very, very temporary.**
- **Very, very fragile.**

□ **Remember: Above-the-sun are eternal pleasures.**

GETTING STARTED: What do you find satisfying about Christmas? What do find you unsatisfying?

DIGGING DEEPER: The word for meaninglessness or vanity also means “breath” or “vapor.” Therefore, what does Solomon mean by saying, “everything is meaninglessness?” How does the phrase “under the sun” inform you about Solomon’s perspective? From verses 2:1-11, make a list of ways from which Solomon sought pleasure. What parallels do you see in today’s world to Solomon’s list? The word “pleasure” is most often translated as gladness, rejoice, or joy. What earthly things bring joy and gladness in the following verses: Ps 104:15; Judg 9:13; Eccles 10:19; Pr 27:9, 15:20, 12:25; Ex 4:14? What do the following verses say about joy that is found in God and his salvation: 2 Chr 20:27-28; Ps 5:11, 63:11, 94:5-6; Isa 9:2-3, 25:9; Neh 8:10? How do these verses show that where Jesus is there is joy: Matt 2:10; Lk 2:10-14; John 3:27-30, 15:9-11, 16:24? What does 2:25-26 relate to in 2:11?

LIVING IT OUT: What are the things, events, or people that give you great satisfaction and joy? Thank God for those things right now. How do you know when those good things become idols in your heart? Give an example of when this has happened? What can you do this week in preparation for Christmas to caution yourself that the good things on earth are temporary and fragile? What can you do this week in preparation for Christmas to remind yourself that above the sun with Jesus are eternal pleasures?



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