

02 – Ecclesiastes 2:1-26 – What to conclude?

What is life all about?

The delights of my heart

... laughter.

... the wineries

... he built stuff

... entertainment

... the delights of a man's heart.

verse 11, "yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done".

Pleasure paradox. *"The paradox of hedonism, also called the pleasure paradox, refers to the practical difficulties encountered in the pursuit of pleasure. For the hedonist, constant pleasure-seeking may not yield the most actual pleasure or happiness in the long term—or short term, when consciously pursuing pleasure interferes with experiencing it."*

What brings it all undone?

... how short and finite life really is

... making wise decisions are far better than making foolish decisions.

as light is better than darkness.

His conclusion so far

v 25, satisfaction comes from the hand of God ... for without him who can find enjoyment.

v 26

...a right relationship with God will result in wisdom in how to live life well, understand what life is about and happiness in life.

For us today

1) It Critics us

How does Ecc 2 critic US and our tendency to place a wrong emphasis on the pleasures of life.

2) Pleasure understood correctly.

God is the one who gives us things AND God is the one who enables us to find enjoyment in the things we have.

How do we look to God for wisdom, knowledge and happiness ...

Firstly ... Work at having your heart shaped by the plans of God.

Secondly ... Use you the things God has given you for his purposes

How does the word of God enable you to make wise decisions in how you ...find real and lasting enjoyment...?