

# THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

#5 = FROM PLEASURE TO TREASURE (2:4-11)

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

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## FOLLOWING THE PATTERN

1. He asks an Existential \_\_\_\_\_. (1:3)
  - a. He starts this book off with a conclusion to a question.
  - b. The question he asked was about the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
  - c. Everyone is on a search for meaning and purpose.
2. He seeks for answers in Excessive and \_\_\_\_\_ Living. (vs. 4-10)
  - a. Notice the words that he uses:
    - i. Vs. 7, 9 = "...above all that were in Jerusalem before me..."
    - ii. Vs. 4, 7, 9 = "...great works... great possessions of great cattle... So I was great..."
    - iii. Vs. 10-11 = Eyes, heart, and hands = He put everything into this experiment.
  - b. We are taught by this world to believe that if you attain all the things, you will find happiness, true joy, fulfillment, and purpose.
3. He finds an \_\_\_\_\_ Result. (v. 11)
  - a. His excess and extravagance lead him to emptiness.
  - b. When you look for purpose in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, you will always end up empty.

## LEARNING THE LESSONS

1. Focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ never leads to joy or fulfillment.
  - a. The word "I" appears 15 times in these verses. = The word "me" appears 11 times and the word "my" appears 7 times.
  - b. Everything he bought and everything he acquired was for himself.
  - c. How do you stop feeling empty? \_\_\_\_\_ yourself.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ is the enemy of fulfillment and joy.
2. Jesus calls us to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, not live for self.
  - a. **Mark 8:34-38**
  - b. Acts 20:35, "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
  - c. Galatians 6:14; I John 2:15
3. True pleasures and treasures are for \_\_\_\_\_ in this life and especially in the next.
  - a. **Mark 10:29-30**
  - b. This doesn't mean we will have 100 houses, but that we will be 100 times compensated in this life and the value of what we have is greater because of God. = We have His favor and we can truly enjoy His blessings on Earth and even more so in Heaven!
  - c. As Christians, we get the best life \_\_\_\_\_ the sun and eternal life \_\_\_\_\_ the sun!
  - d. If we live for self now, we give up true pleasures and treasures.

***Have you been focused on yourself too much and not enough on others and Christ?***

***Are you believing the lie of the world that things will give you joy? How do you combat that?***

***Are you putting Christ first so that we can enjoy true pleasures and treasures now and in Heaven?***