

#3 The Search Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

Vanity of Vanities... All is Vanity... All is but a striving after the wind!

<u>Mark 8:36</u> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

Ecclesiastes 1:16 I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. ¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow...

1. What is the wisdom Solomon seeks?
The best thinking A MAN CAN DO ON HIS OWN

2. Where does Solomon search for wisdom?

- a. <u>PLEASURE</u> and <u>FUN</u> <u>Ecclesiastes 2:1-3</u> ... Come now enjoy yourself...
- b. The Power of <u>LEGACY</u>
 <u>Ecclesiastes 2:4-6</u> ...! Planted...
- c. The Collection of <u>WEALTH</u>
 <u>Ecclesiastes 2:7-8a</u> ... I Gathered...
- d. The Pleasure of <u>OPULENCE</u>

 <u>Ecclesiastes 2:8b-10</u> ... Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them...

3. What was the result of his search?

 $\underline{\textit{Ecclesiastes 2:11}}$... There was nothing to be gained under the sun.

4. What is Solomon's assessment of his search?

- a. Wisdom is better than <u>FOOLISHNESS</u> but it all leads to <u>DEATH</u>
- b. There is value in **WORKING HARD** but in the end all we accomplish **GOES TO OTHERS**
- c. The <u>JOY OF LIFE</u> is only found in the <u>DIGNITY AND</u>

 <u>VALUE</u> given to us by <u>JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL</u>

5. How can we keep going? Is the search impossible?

- a. Clearly define that for which you are **SEARCHING Matthew 6:33:**
- b. Know where to LOOK

 John 6:37:

 Matthew 7:7:

What are you searching for today?

Where will your search take you?