

# The Search for Satisfaction Notes

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Ecclesiastes 2:1-17

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**Main Point:** We will never find our purpose in life if we put the pursuit of our pleasures above God's priorities.

## Dopamine

1. Distraction leads to pleasure, which leads to reinforcement, ending in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. All this leads to a craving for more stimuli, which releases more dopamine, which creates a desire for more, leading the individual into more unholy habits and \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
3. The more Solomon hunted for happiness, the more \_\_\_\_\_ he became, concluding that it was like chasing after the wind.
4. The more Solomon pursued pleasure, projects, possessions, prestige, and performance, the more he lost \_\_\_\_\_ on the purpose of life.

## Pleasure (vs. 1)

1. The phrase "come now" is a strong imperative which shows he didn't drift into this lurid lifestyle but rather made a deliberate \_\_\_\_\_ to partake of pleasure.
2. The phrase "enjoy yourself" literally means, "I will \_\_\_\_\_ in."
3. The word "test" indicates what follows is an experiment based on personal experience.
4. It didn't take Solomon long to conclude that hedonism is hollow.
5. The pursuit of pleasure for its own sake is ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ and useless.
6. "Our technological advances mean that hyper-pleasures are always \_\_\_\_\_ at the door, just within our reach." *Samuel Heard* (Genesis 4:7)
7. Even hyper-pleasures leave us ultimately unsatisfied and on the path to \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 2).
8. Laughing through life and pursuing pleasure at all costs doesn't accomplish anything, but actually brings \_\_\_\_\_.
9. To "muse" means "to \_\_\_\_\_." When the letter "a" is put in front, it means to "not think."
10. It once meant "to divert the attention of; so as to \_\_\_\_\_."
11. The word "searched" refers to "\_\_\_\_\_ and seeking out."
12. Solomon experimented with the finest wines and liquor available from all over the world. When the buzz wore off, he was still bummed.
13. Solomon warns about drinking in Proverbs 20:1.

## Projects

1. Solomon spent \_\_\_\_\_ years constructing the Temple.
2. He spent \_\_\_\_\_ years building his palatial home.
3. He built a house for his wife (1 Kings 9:14).

4. He built a house in the Forest of Lebanon (1 Kings 10:17).
5. He built stables for 40,000 horses (1 Kings 4:26).
6. He planted \_\_\_\_\_ and made "gardens and parks," which were like private resorts.
7. The word "garden" can be translated as "\_\_\_\_\_."
8. Because he had so many fruit trees, he had to make \_\_\_\_\_ in order to irrigate them.

### Possessions

1. Because he constructed so many great works, he needed a great number of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Solomon had more herds and flocks than anyone before him (1 Kings 4:22-23).
3. He accumulated silver and gold through taxes, tribute, and trade (1 Kings 10:21).
4. Solomon also hired professional \_\_\_\_\_ to provide live entertainment.
5. He turned to the pleasure of intimate \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We know from 1 Kings 11:1-3 that he had 700 wives and 300 concubines.

### Prestige

1. Solomon determined to be the \_\_\_\_\_ and the most popular person alive (vs. 9-10).
2. Solomon's plan to become the best and the brightest was fulfilled (1 Kings 10:23).
3. Self-centeredness and self-indulgence \_\_\_\_\_ satisfy for long.

### Performance

1. The word "considered" means, "to \_\_\_\_\_ and look something directly in the eye."
2. This alarming inward look made him realize it was all \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 12).

### Perspective

1. He gained the perspective that living a faithful life of wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_ than living a worthless life of folly (vs. 13, Proverbs 16:16).
2. He also discovered that \_\_\_\_\_ is waiting for both the wise and the foolish (vs 14-16).
3. None of this satisfied him as he found life to be extremely empty, worthless, and meaningless.
4. We were made to find our satisfaction in the \_\_\_\_\_ who is Savior.

### Action Steps

1. Read Ecclesiastes at least three times this summer.
2. Repent from trying to find fulfillment apart from God.
3. Determine that lasting satisfaction only comes from God.
4. Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior.