

“The Search for Satisfaction”

Ecclesiastes 2

New Hope Community Church

February 11th, 2018

Life Group Meeting

Ecclesiastes 2

A. Solomon Searches for Satisfaction

1. The test of **gladness** (1,2) -----
2. The test of **alcohol** (3) -----
3. The test of **achievement** (4-6) -----
4. The test of **leisure** (7a) -----
5. The test of **prestige** (7b) -----
6. The test of **money** (8a) -----
7. The test of **entertainment** (8b) -----
8. The test of **sexual pleasure** (8c) -----
9. The test of **greatness** (9) -----
10. The test of unrestrained self **indulgence** (10) -----

B. Solomon Ponders His Findings

1. None of these things can be **harnessed** (11)
2. Material things under the sun bring no **profit** (11)
3. Both the wise and the fool have the same end — **death** (16)
4. Solomon hates life, none of his achievements seem **lasting** (17)
5. Despite all that he had done, he felt completely **hopeless** (20)
6. He asks, ‘What enjoyment can there be apart from **God?**’ (25)
7. God is sovereign in distributing of **earthly** things (26)

C. Solomon’s Question Needs to Be Answered

* ‘For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him?’

1. There is a **desire** that goes beyond the physical and mental
“O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him!” (Ps 34:8)
2. This desire longs for something not limited to ‘**under the sun**’
“For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.” (Jn 6:33)
3. This substance satisfies because it is not **vapor**, therefore it is not **futile**
“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” (Jn 6:35)

Reflection

- **QUESTION:** Which, if any, of Solomon’s big 10 have I allowed myself to seek satisfaction in beyond what it should?

**I said to the LORD, You are my Lord; I have no good besides You.
You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever. Ps 16:2,11**

QUESTIONS

1. Pray together that the Holy Spirit would guide our discussion tonight to touch each of us in a way that would help each of us follow Jesus more completely.
2. Review together the 10 tests of Solomon. Each person that is willing, share which of these 10 have been a temptation for you to look to in the search for inner satisfaction, and why.
3. Which of these are especially a concern that you might have for a child or a grandchild to be ensnared by in the day in which we live, and why?
4. Have you ever felt like Solomon, frustrated by the fact that all of your hard work and effort to gain a little profit in life seems to slip away from you like vapor?
5. Discuss what David means when he says in Ps 34:8, “O taste and see that the Lord is good!”
6. Why do you think Jesus speaks of Himself in this way: “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger”? (Jn 6:35)
7. Solomon concludes that “nothing under the sun” is lasting or ultimately satisfying. In light of this, what is significant about Jesus speaking of the bread of God (Himself) “comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world” (Jn 6:33)
8. If you were speaking to a teenager today who is attracted to all that the world has to offer, how would you use this message of Solomon, and this teaching of Jesus, to speak to him/her?