

# God in the Everyday

## Part 2 – Play

### Ecclesiastes 6.1-6

Rapture coming 4/23 – so let's play?!?!

Two theological underpinnings

- God is worthy of our everyday lives (1 Cor. 10.31)
- God is present in our everyday lives (Matt. 28.20)

Ecclesiastes 6.1-6

#### **Play is a function of wealth (v.2)**

- Those making < \$2 per day aren't thinking about their vacations or avocations – and that's 50% of the world
- Do we need to feel guilty? No! MUST recognize this is a GIFT to be *received humbly*

#### **Play is a good gift (v.2)**

- Solomon: it's EVIL when you don't have the power to enjoy it (better to be stillborn because it's such an offense to God's goodness)
  - It is possible to have all the heart desires but find no joy in it
- James 1.17 – 1 Tim 6.19-21
- Benefits:
  - Relieve stress – REST (tranquility)
  - Improve brain function – judgment calls and emotional regulation
  - Stimulate mind and boost creativity - “We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing” ~ G.B. Shaw
  - Improves social skills
  - Teaches teamwork
- What do you do with a good gift? *Enjoy it gratefully*

#### **Good gifts make lousy idols (v.6)**

- Everything ends in the same place – 100 years from now, it won't matter in one sense, and eternally matter in another
- Keep perspective – TOM BRADY QUOTE – “Why do I have three Super Bowl rings and still think there's something greater out there for me? There may be a lot of people who would say, ‘Hey man, this is what it is. I reached my goal, my dream, my life.’ Me, I think, ‘God, it's got to be more than this.’ I mean, this isn't...this can't be all it's cracked up to be.” “Well, what do you think the answer is?” Brady: “I wish I knew”
- Idols make lousy masters (Psalm 115.8)

## So what do we do?

- Receive and enjoy God's gift
  - When we do, we make Him look good
  - Eric Liddell – running is a way to feel God's pleasure – why do you think he gave it to you?
  - Corollary: don't enjoy what is not from God
- Fight distraction
  - In you – to what does your mind wander?
  - In your kids – what do you applaud in them? “I love watching you play”
- Look for doors for ministry
  - Sean – bassist
  - Golf – conversations (what do I do when it's awkward?)
  - Ministry is easier when (a) you're intentional and (b) you're practicing it regularly HOME DEPOT - NATASHIA

## Questions for Discussion

1. What's the most enjoyable vacation you have been on? What made it so special? What's the hobby / recreation you enjoy the most? Why?
2. Where did you sense God was really with you this week? What difference did it make in the situation you were in? What is an area of your life you wished you were more aware of God's presence with you? What steps do you need to take to cultivate an awareness of His presence?
3. Reread James 1.17 and 1 Timothy 6.17-19. What do they say about God? What do they say about us? What do they say about God's gifts to us? How should we respond in light of that? What is one particular step you can take to apply this?
4. In the sermon, we argued that good gifts make lousy idols lousy idols make terrible masters. Have you seen this in your own life (or in your family)? How so? What was the outcome? In what area of your life are you most tempted to take what is a good gift and exalt it to the place of what's ultimate? Read Psalm 115.4-8. What does the Bible says happens when we do that?
5. In the sermon, we listed three application points (under *What do we do?*). Which of those is easiest to apply? Which is most difficult? What is one way that you have seen doors for ministry open because of your hobbies, recreation, avocation?