

Prayer Concerns:

Chasing After Pleasure

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 [Page 1035]

Putting pleasure to the test. [1-9]

The purpose of pleasure:

1. To _____ the _____ of God.
2. To provide _____ from _____

When does pleasure become a problem?

Pleasure becomes a problem when we...

1. Use it to _____ or _____
2. Fail to _____ it within _____
3. Treat it as an _____
4. Put it _____ our _____ for _____

Enjoying pleasure under the sun. [10-11]

1. Enjoy pleasure as a _____ from God. [5:18-19]
2. Keep pleasure in its _____. [1 Tim. 6:17]
3. View pleasure as a _____ of _____. [Rev. 21:4]

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What would you do if you could spend an entire day doing whatever you pleased?

Digging Deeper:

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

1. Why do you think we are so tempted to find meaning in pleasure? Have you ever tried this or been close to someone who has? What eventually causes some to move beyond the pursuit of pleasure?
2. What paradox does the teacher find in pleasure [verses 1-3]?
3. What great projects did the teacher undertake in verses 4-8? What desires were such projects meant to satisfy?

4. Note how often the teacher uses the words “I” and “myself” in this passage. What does this tell you about the teacher’s view of himself? His view of others—especially the slaves who labored and the wives who served his hedonistic desires?

5. How can we experience joy amid disappointment and pain?

6. What do present longings for joy teach us about the joys awaiting us in heaven?

Taking it Home:

1. Do you see yourself as led more by your heart or by your head? In what areas do you find yourself controlled more by your desires than wisdom?