

P.M. OUTLINE
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SEARCHING IN THE WRONG PLACES

(Ecclesiastes 1:12 – 2:26)

INTRODUCTION - (1:13) "I have set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man ... "

1. (1:12 – 2:10) SOLOMON GIVES A LIST OF 4 EXPERIENCES

1) (1:12 – 18) "Wisdom"

If education itself could bring meaning and purpose in life, the PhD's and professors should be the happiest and most fulfilled people in the world.

2) (2:1 – 3) "Mirth"

"enjoy pleasure ... laughter ... mirth, What does it accomplish?"
(Proverbs 14:13, 20:1, 23:31-32)

3) (2:4 – 6) "Works"

(v4) "I made my works great, I built ... " - "I, me, myself" used 10 times
Jesus adds to this: (Matthew 6:19-20; Luke 12:15, v21)

4) (2:7 – 10) "Possessions"

(v9) "So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me ... "

2. (2:11 – 23) SOLOMON GIVES HIS CONCLUSIONS (EVALUATIONS)

1) (v11-12) "all the works ... the labor ... was vanity and grasping at the wind"

2) (v13-17) "the same event happens to them all"

(v16) "... and how does a wise man die? As the fool!"
Without God in their life, in death there is no difference between rich and poor.

3) (v18-23) "all my labor ... I must leave it to the man who will come after me ... "

Some day, everything you own will be owned by someone else. (1 Timothy 6:7)
(v19) "and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish?"
(v21) "... heritage to a man who has not labored for it."
(v22-23) "For what has man for all his labor ... striving ... toiled ... burdensome ... even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity."

3. (v24 – 26) SOLOMON SAYS, "ENJOY ... FOR GOD GIVES ... "

1) (v24-25) "... that his soul should enjoy good in his labor ... the hand of God ... "

Enjoy the fruit of your labor "under the sun;" and add (John 10:10) "abundant life"

2) (v26) "For God gives ... " - gain the wisdom of God in order that your work does not become "the work of gathering and collecting," meaning, that's the only thing you see in working. Add "joy" by adding God to your work.