

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“I Can’t Get No Satisfaction”

Eccl. 2:1-8

March 22, 2020

12 I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

13 And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with.

14 I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said to myself, "Behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge."

17 And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind.

18 Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain.

Ecc1 2:1-8

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- “myself” - **לֵב** - leb – heart, mind.
- “test” - **נָסָה** - nasaw – to attempt to prove something.
- “pleasure” - **שִׂמְחָה** - simchah – exceeding, over-the-top celebrating. Ultimate Mardi Gras. New Years eve, Spring break.
- “enjoy” - **טוֹב** - towb – go after all you can get.
- Whether we know it or not, all of us are engaged in a quest for something which will meet the needs of our heart.
- The United States Declaration of Independence says that one of our unalienable rights is “the pursuit of happiness.” For most people they spend their lived in pursuit of pleasure.
- “**Hedonism**”- the pursuit of pleasure.
- What Solomon tries is tried in every generation. The truth is all the same.
- There is not more pleasure today than there was 3,000 years ago. That’s what Solomon established in chapter 1 – there is “nothing new under the sun”.
- So the 21st century is not going to give you more fulfillment because we rearrange the dirt differently than in the 1st century or the 10th century BC.

- By saying in the 1st chapter that “there is nothing new under the sun”, Solomon has taken away the time factor – it does not matter when you live because everything is always the same – the earth is the same, cycles of generations are the same, sun is the same, wind is the same, and water is the same and dirt is the same.
- You only go around once in life, so grab all the gusto you can get.” He grabbed for all the pleasures of life. But after some time he realized that the “gusto” was less fulfilling and did not taste so great.
- “Maybe that's where some of you are today. You’re looking for something to help you escape from the monotony of life.
- If that’s the case, Solomon knows exactly where you are, he's been there. God knows exactly where you are; He's written about it here in His word.
- Pleasure seeking, as a way of satisfaction, fails because God has not built us to be satisfied that way. It’s like pouring chocolate syrup in the gas tank of your car and expecting it to run, or drinking a steaming cup of tomato soup on a hot, humid day and expecting it to quench your thirst. Nothing wrong with chocolate syrup or tomato soup, but not to satisfy the needs of an engine nor the thirst of a parched mouth.
- Solomon’s conclusion: All pleasure “under the sun” is meaningless, empty.

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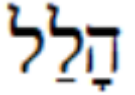
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8 areas of pleasure:

1. Laughter.

- Solomon says “let’s have a blast, laugh it up, let’s just have a riot.” Where can we go? – T.V., a movie, comedy clubs, or just sitting around telling jokes, stories. Yuking it up. Rolling in the aisles. Laughing till we are bent over and our “sides are ready to split.” It feels good because the body releases endorphins.
- **“madness”** -  - halal- foolishness.
- Laughter only deals with the peripheries of life. There is no solid content to it.
- Think about how comedy has changed.
- Think about how it has stayed the same.
- “What does laughing accomplish?” Nothing. It is empty.

Ecc1 7:2-6

2 It is better to go to a house of mourning
Than to go to a house of feasting,
Because that is the end of every man,
And the living takes it to heart.

3 Sorrow is better than laughter,
For when a face is sad a heart may be happy.

4 The mind of the wise is in the house of mourning,
While the mind of fools is in the house of pleasure.

5 It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man
Than for one to listen to the song of fools.

6 For as the crackling of thorn bushes under a pot,
So is the laughter of the fool;
And this too is futility.

Prov 14:13

13 Even in laughter the heart may be in pain,
And the end of joy may be grief.

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2. Wine.

5 uses of wine in scripture:

1. Communion

Matt 26:27-29

27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;

28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

2. Enjoyment

Ps 104:14-15

14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And vegetation for the labor of man,
So that he may bring forth food from the earth,

15 And wine which makes man's heart glad,

Ecc1 9:7

7 Go then, eat your bread in happiness and drink your wine with a cheerful heart;

3. Medicinal

1 Tim 5:23

23 No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

4. Celebration

John 2:7-10

7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim.

8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him.

9 When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom,

10 and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."

5. Thirst

John 19:28-30

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty."

29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth.

30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Warnings about wine:

Prov 20:1

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler,
And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.

Prov 31:4-5

4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel,
It is not for kings to drink wine,
Or for rulers to desire strong drink,
5 For they will drink and forget what is decreed,
And pervert the rights of all the afflicted.

Eph 5:18

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled
with the Spirit,

1 Tim 3:2-3

2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife,
temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
3 not addicted to wine

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2. Wine.

“stimulate” – to lead, to draw (like drawing a carriage by a horse).

“guiding me wisely” – does not want to get intoxicated. Drink just enough to get a “buzz” going.

“take hold of folly” – but still have a good time

“what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.”

Here is the Epicurean philosophy –

“Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die”.

A restaurant placed the following sign in a front window:
“Life is short. Eat dessert first.”

- He drank the wine, but he did not get intoxicated, because he wanted to see if he was able to control the folly rather than it control him.
- He didn't drink so much that it would prevent his mind from guiding him wisely. For Solomon therefore wine became a socially acceptable way to loosen up and enjoy people and conversations.
- Solomon was specific in saying he was aware that wine could also make people lose control and cause them to act foolishly. He determined he would not let that happen.
- He wants to see if a moderated form of alcohol or drug use would bring satisfaction.
- Solomon learned what everyone who depends on wine for pleasure learns in the end - that the values of wine as a means of obtaining purpose and fulfillment are illusory, deceptive, and temporary. It has the potential in the end to produce pain, loss, waste, uselessness, and addiction (you need more and more).

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4. Building Projects.

- Solomon's temple is known to be one of the most magnificent buildings of all time. It took 153,000 workers seven years to build.
- It took them thirteen years to build Solomon's own house.
- Imagine what you could build with unlimited resources and 100,000 plus workers.
- I Kings 7 & 9 – other buildings and cities.
- He didn't even have to use his American Express credit card.
- Here is an example of verses 4-6 -

The **Palace of Versailles** was the principal royal residence of France from 1682, under King **Louis XIV**, until the start of the **French Revolution** in 1789. It is located 12 miles southwest of the center of **Paris**. Has about 8 million tourists per year.



























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4. Servants.

1 Kings 5:13-16

13 Now King Solomon levied forced laborers from all Israel; and the forced laborers numbered 30,000 men.

14 He sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month in relays; they were in Lebanon a month and two months at home. And Adoniram was over the forced laborers.

15 Now Solomon had 70,000 transporters, and 80,000 hewers of stone in the mountains,

16 besides Solomon's 3,300 chief deputies who were over the project and who ruled over the people who were doing the work.

- Solomon had servants waiting on him hand and foot.
- Solomon could buy what he wanted. Shopping to many is a great pleasure. Materialism, driven by fashion and competition, promises pleasure. It is only temporary.
- But at the end of the day what was accomplished of any significance?

We now have “Smart Houses.” These computer-equipped homes can be programmed to monitor the baby, make the coffee, start the shower, dim the lights, and turn on the music. It senses whether people are in a room and adjusts the heat and lights accordingly. If the vacuum cleaner is running when the doorbell or telephone rings, the computer automatically shuts it off.

Just like Solomon’s house – he used real people, we use electronics and machines – same result. Nothing new under the sun.

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Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.

5. Business.

- In Solomon's time cattle and flocks were the measure of wealth.
- Solomon is saying he was extremely wealthy, more so than anyone.
- If the sacrifices at the dedication of the Temple are any indication of the amount, the numbers were enormous.

1 Kings 8:63

63 Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep.

- These animals, and more that are acquired, will all die.
- Businesses die too.
- Where is meaning in that?

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6. Money and Wealth.

“collected” – to heap up, to gather up, to keep around to admire,

“silver, and gold, and . . . treasure” – piles of it. Art pieces, gold chalices, gifts from kings.

- All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold.
- Solomon could not find anything else to buy, so he decided to just store up money and wealth in case he ever needed anything else.

Ecc1 2:1-8

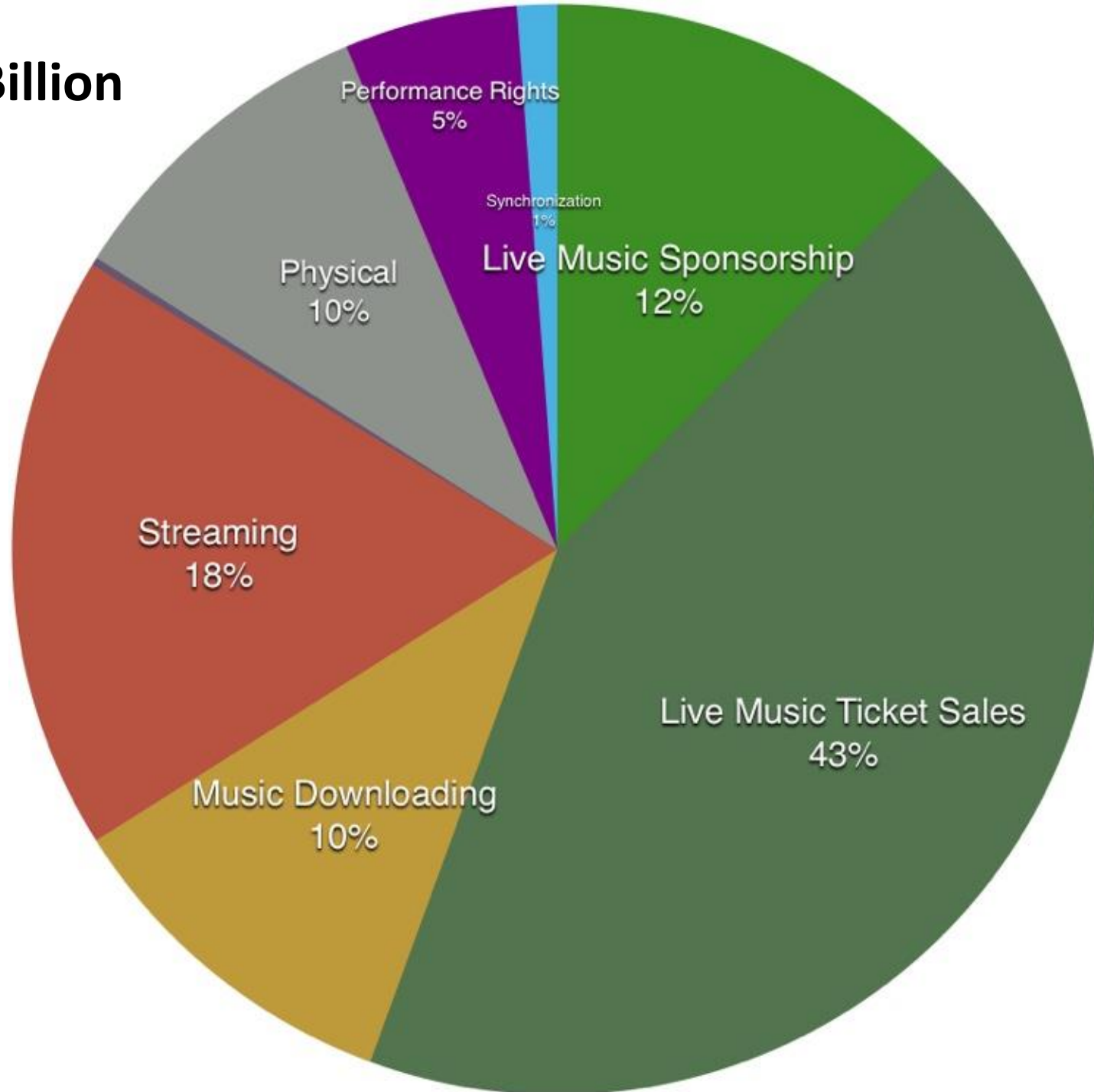
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“ . . . I provided for myself male and female singers . . . ”

7. Music.

- Solomon had “live entertainment”.
- No electronic devices. No earphones, ear buds. No radios. No TV. No piped in music over a speaker system.
- All music came from a “live concert.”
- Solomon could have live music in every room of the house 24/7.
- “Bands” every night.
- Orchestras whenever he wanted. Choirs at his command. Soloists at his beckoning.
- No musical entertainment was withheld.
- Music “for your listening pleasure” is gigantic in the world and especially in the US.

\$43 Billion







- Solomon faced the same problem with music as we do today –when the music stops the room fills with a silent emptiness again.
- We in our day have tried to solve that problem by refusing to allow silence anywhere.
- Solomon came to the conclusion that, like laughter, what does it accomplish? What lasting purpose does it serve?

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“... and the pleasures of men — many concubines. ”

8. Sex.

“men” – Adam and the results of the Fall.

- 700 wives, 300 concubines.
- 1,000 women available to him.
- In that culture there was the common practice of giving a harem of women as a gift from one king to another.
- The 700 wives were not romantic relationships but rather convenience marriages made to cement certain foreign relationships and guarantee peaceful relations with other nations and kings.
- He may have had “bragging rights” – “I’ve had sex more than anybody.”
- However the sex was illicit, diluted, and destructive, and it destroyed him.

Prov 6:26

6 For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread,
You become nothing but an animal.

- **It was the downfall of Solomon and his kingdom.**

So in a culture saturated with pleasure, man says . . .

"I Can't Get No Satisfaction"

I can't get no satisfaction
I can't get no satisfaction
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no

When I'm drivin' in my car
And a man comes on the radio
He's tellin' me more and more
About some useless information
Supposed to fire my imagination

I can't get no
Oh no no no
Hey hey hey
That's what I say

I can't get no satisfaction
I can't get no satisfaction
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try
I can't get no, I can't get no

When I'm watchin' my TV
And a man comes on and tells me
How white my shirts can be
But he can't be a man 'cause he doesn't smoke
The same cigarettes as me

I can't get no
Oh no no no
Hey hey hey
That's what I say

I can't get no satisfaction
I can't get no girl reaction
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try

Summary:

Solomon set out to see if anything lasting can be found in:

Riotous laughter.

Controlled "buzz."

Elaborate estates.

Innumerable servants.

#1 business.

Limitless wealth.

Greatest music.

Unlimited sex.

Solomon's conclusion: All of it is empty and worthless to give man any lasting significance for his life.

Why? 4 reasons -

1. It is temporary. Nothing lasts. It is short-lived.
2. It is exaggerated. It way over-promises and under-delivers.
3. It is selfish. It never thinks of other people except as they may enhance your pleasure, or be spectators of your glory.
4. It is superficial. Only a veneer. Only on the surface, Fails to provide anything of depth and lasting value.

Ps 16:11

11 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 145:16

16 You open Your hand
And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

“A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.”

- Fanny Crosby

