

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"

Part 2

Eccl. 2:9-17

March 29, 2020

Eccl 2:1-8

- 1 I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself." And behold, it too was futility.
- 2 I said of **laughter**, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?"
- 3 I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with **wine** while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.
- 4 I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself;
- 5 I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees;
- 6 I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees.
- 7 I bought male and female slaves and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.
- 8 Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men — many concubines.

3 reasons for why I don't consume alcohol:

1. Identification

1 Peter 4:3-4

3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation,

Rom 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

- 38,000,000 alcoholics in the U.S.
- 80,000 people a year in our country die of alcohol-related disease or accidental death.

Harvard Public Health Study -

- 50% of people in America don't drink at all.
- 12 percent drink ten drinks a week.
- 23 percent of those who drink consume 76 percent of the alcohol. Therefore most drinkers, then, are binge drinkers - they drink to get drunk.

- The person who consumes alcohol walks a very fine line between freedom and sin, responsibility and carelessness, liberty and abuse.
- We often flaunt liberty and laugh in the face of God's grace by posting our favorite beer brands and wines on Facebook, all under the guise of "exercising liberty."

2. Edification

Rom 14:21

21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.

1 Cor 10:23-24

23 All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.

24 Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.

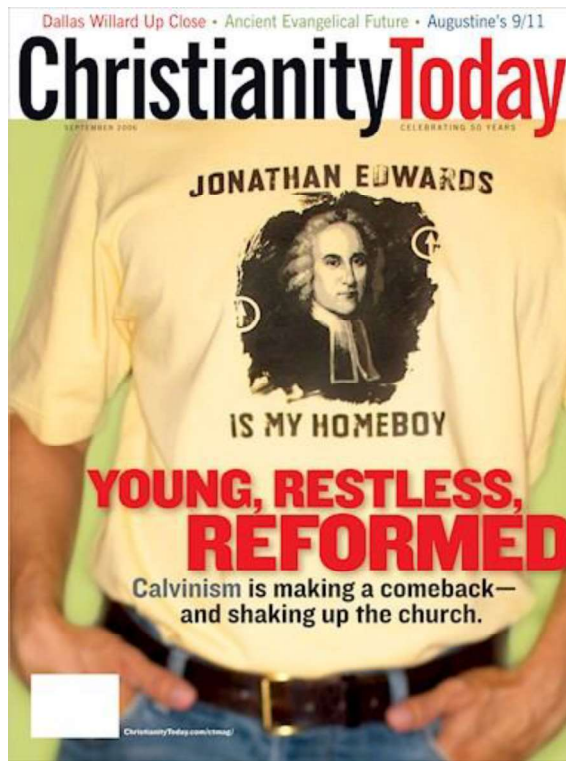
1 Cor 8:9

9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

1 Cor 8:13

13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.





3. Occupation

Lev 10:8-11

8 The Lord then spoke to Aaron, saying,

9 "Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not die — it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations —

10 and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean,

11 and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them through Moses."

Prov 31:4

4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel,

It is not for kings to drink wine,

Or for rulers to desire strong drink,

"Judging from certain church websites and pastoral blogs, a sizeable core of young men in the YRR movement are perfectly happy to give the world the impression that cage fighting, beer-drinking, cigar-smoking, hard-partying, and other forms of bad-boy-behavior are the distinguishing marks of their religion."

- John MacArthur

Luke 1:15

15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

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

Num 6:1-3

1 Again the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to dedicate himself to the Lord,

3 he shall abstain from wine and strong drink;

"Alcohol is now the modern golden calf, and millions of people, young and old, male and female, have been seduced by it."

- David Wilkerson

"As I coach and mentor church planters and pastors, I am shocked at the number of them who are either addicted or headed toward addiction to alcohol. Increasingly, the same is true with prescription drugs. One pastor I know could not relax without several beers after work and could not sleep without the aid of a sleeping pill."

- Darrin Patrick
"Church Planter"

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Slavery

- Slavery in the O.T. and the N.T. was permitted.
- The Bible never condemns slavery.
- What the Bible does condemn are masters who mistreat, abuse, take advantage of, or exploit slaves.
- It is not capturing, or kidnapping or buying and selling people to make people slaves as happened in the Middle Ages by the slave traders. Solomon was also guilty of this as evidenced when his son Rehoboam became king.
- Someone would come to the home of someone and say, "Can I live here in exchange for my service to you?"
- Why was slavery permitted? Because if done correctly it benefits both master and slave.
- We have an entire book in the Bible that deals with the subject of slavery. Philemon is a master, Onesimus is a slave. Onesimus runs away and this prompts Paul to write a letter to Philemon – thus the book of Philemon. Notice Paul does not condemn slavery or try to abolish it. He knows it can work to benefit everyone.
- What ruins the master-slave relationship is SIN.
- It was Israel's way of caring for the needy.
- **Benefits:**
 - It avoided, for the slave, a life of homelessness, destitution, and starvation.
 - It not only cared for the slave, but provided a home and food, for his family and a life of security both now and in the future.
 - In Israel every 7 years all slaves were set free. Many would go back to their Master.

Ecc1 2:9-17

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10 All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor.

11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

12 So I turned to consider wisdom, madness and folly; for what will the man do who will come after the king except what has already been done?

13 And I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness.

14 The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I know that one fate befalls them both.

15 Then I said to myself, "As is the fate of the fool, it will also befall me. Why then have I been extremely wise?" So I said to myself, "This too is vanity."

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- Surrounded by all the luxuries of life Solomon concluded that he became great.
- He saw himself as more successful than all who preceded him in Jerusalem - Saul & David.
- Solomon's wisdom gave him great success.

10 All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor.

- Reminds us of 1 Jn. 2:15-17:

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the **lust of the eyes** and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The **world is passing away**, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

- Solomon had it all - and not just for one day but every day. If he saw it, he bought it. If he wanted it, he took it. If he thought he would enjoy it, he tried it. His investigation of the pleasures of life took him in every direction. His view is from the Penthouse not the outhouse.
- Solomon's philosophy: "I've worked hard for this, so its time to indulge myself."
- **Narcissism** - selfishness, self-centeredness, involving a sense of entitlement, a lack of empathy, and a need for admiration.

“America is said to have the highest per capita boredom of any spot on earth! We know that because we have the greatest number of artificial amusements of any country. People have become so empty that they can’t even entertain themselves. They have to pay other people to amuse them, to make them laugh, to try to make them feel warm and happy and comfortable for a few minutes, to try to lose that awful, frightening, hollow feeling; that terrible, dreaded feeling of being lost and alone.”

-- Billy Graham,

11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

“considered” פָּנָה - pawnaw – “to face something”

- “Time to evaluate”, “Time to get real and face the facts” – what is the bottom line of all the pleasure that I experienced.
- **“vanity”** – worthless, empty.
- **“chasing after wind”** – nothing accomplished.
- **“no profit”** – bankrupt.

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- Now Solomon looks at the skill that he is gifted with – wisdom.
- Does wisdom have any advantages? Will I be able to find them to find ultimate meaning?
- “Men are going to come along after me, but what are they going to do that hasn’t already been done? I’ve exhausted all the experiments. There’s no more experiments to run. And so because there are no more experiments to run, you can just learn from me and my experiments.”

13 And I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness.

Comparison:

- Light is pleasant and delightful, dark is very uncomfortable.
- Light is useful to direct in walking, dark is very unsafe to walk in.
- Light sometimes signifies joy and prosperity, and darkness signifies adversity.
- Light is used to express the light of grace, and dark the darkness of sin and ignorance.
- As the natural light exceeds darkness, and prosperity exceeds adversity and calamities, and a state of grace exceeds a state of sin and wickedness, so wisdom exceeds folly.

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- Solomon recognizes it is better to live this life making wise decisions than foolish ones.
- Keeps you out of a lot of trouble.

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- But both the fool and the wise man have the same destination.
- Although wisdom is better, the results figure to be about the same.
- Both kinds of men die. They both are buried.
- Wisdom under the sun stops breathing at some point just like folly does.
- In this respect, the wise man, no less than the fool, will at some point quietly assume room temperature.
- Death is the great equalizer, and if it makes no distinctions, then why bother to be overly wise? Why not act the fool if we all end up in the same grave anyway?

14 The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I know that one fate befalls them both.

- The wise man has eyes in his head, and the fool is blind.
- Better to go over a cliff with eyes open than with eyes shut. At least you know why you are going over.
- So there is an advantage to human wisdom simply because at least you are thinking about things and examining things, but the fool just watches TV.
- He doesn't think about anything.
- He's living by the seat of his pants.
- His decisions are not informed by knowledge.
- He's just going with his gut.
- Solomon concluded that worldly wisdom has an edge over foolishness and there is an advantage to wisdom.

Robert Dick Wilson of Princeton knew 23 languages. He gave his life to teaching men the Word of God. And yet, when he died and they buried him, he was buried in the cemetery with men who couldn't even read or write; much less know any other languages at all. It was the same end for both.

“Regardless of how smart you are, you don’t really get too far away from the fool, because you both are going to be carried out feet forward and laid to rest somewhere. You both will end up in the same way.”

- J Vernon McGee

“One by one as they march, our comrades vanish from our sight seized by the silent orders of omnipotent death. Brief and powerless is man's life. On him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls, pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way. For man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gate of darkness, it remains only to cherish, ere yet the blow falls, the lofty thoughts that ennoble his little days.”

- **Bertrand Russell**

Atheist

Humanist

Philosopher

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- Solomon now gets personal.
- This is a jolt to Solomon.
- Wisdom, in the overall picture, has given me little. It hasn't amounted to a hill of beans in the long run.
- It is all empty, empty, empty, empty, empty, empty, ...

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- The intellectual's real hope is that he will achieve lasting fame and be long remembered for his great contributions. Solomon says all this to be an illusion.
- Future generations will no more remember the scholar than they will the beggar on the street.
- Solomon concluded that being wise only has temporary and limited advantages over being foolish. Ultimately there is not much difference. Both the wise man and the fool die, and their survivors forget them.

Faded photographs, covered now with lines and creases . . .



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Some thoughts -

- Solomon did not mean he hated being alive. He meant he hated the way life worked.
- This is rock bottom.
- I hope this gives you some sense of what your unbelieving friend is going through.
- I hope it gives you a heart for the lost.