

# SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

I Will Test You with Pleasure

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## **THE NEXT ATTEMPT AND THE CONCLUSION UPFRONT (1)**

*The Second Attempt*

*The Same Conclusion*

## **THE PROCESS EXAMINED (2-11)**

*The Search (2-8)*

1. *Pleasure through Laughter (2).*
2. *Pleasure through Wine (3).*
3. *Pleasure through Great Works (4-6).*
4. *Pleasure through Servants (7a).*
5. *Pleasure through Possessions (7b).*
6. *Pleasure Through Treasure (8a).*
7. *Pleasure through Entertainment (8b).*

*The Scope (9-10)*

*The Conclusion (11)*

## **AN ABOVE-THE-SUN PERSPECTIVE ON PLEASURE**

*Satisfaction Is Found in God Alone*

*Satisfaction in God Allows Satisfaction in His Creation*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea of this passage is that true and lasting satisfaction is never found in the pleasures of this world when they are sought for their own sake. And the main takeaway is to seek full joy in the one place that it is found, in the presence of God, through faith in Jesus Christ.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Are you living as if anything on earth can truly satisfy you? What do you most long for and why?
3. Have you ever gotten something you really wanted? Did it provide for you what you wanted from it? If so, does it still?
4. Which of the Preacher's pursuits (see the other side of this page) are you also pursuing? Which would you most like to have?
5. Is it easy for you to see that there is nothing inherently wrong with any of the Preacher's pursuits, only in the way he did so?
6. How has your pursuit of satisfaction been similar to and different from the Preacher's—in process and result?
7. Had you ever considered the fact that God made you to be satisfied and to search for satisfaction?
8. Can you name any specific ways in which enjoying God first allowed you to enjoy some aspect of His creation rightly?
9. Is Jesus Christ the greatest longing of your heart and the true satisfaction of your soul?
10. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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11. Tell your non-Christian friend/neighbor that God means them to be fully and eternally satisfied in Jesus.
12. Make an actual list of the things you are seeking your satisfaction in and compare it to the Preacher's.
13. Repent of any ways in which you are seeking satisfaction under-the-sun, and in Christ's place.
14. Spend significant time meditating on the gospel this week—God's promises of salvation (election to glorification) in Jesus.
15. Find a specific way to enjoy one of the things the Preacher "tested" for the glory of God.
16. Artistically attempt to capture the Preacher's heart and/or face after finding that all his attempts fell short.
17. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
18. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

## PRAYER POINTS

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19. Adoration. Praise God for being fullness of joy and pleasure forevermore. Praise God that He is merciful and gracious. Praise God that He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Praise God that He is true satisfaction. Praise God for being patient.
20. Confess. Confess, specifically, the worldly, selfish ways in which you are seeking your own satisfaction. Confess the ways you've worshiped creation more than the Creator. Confess any ways you've used others to gain your pleasure. Confess any ways that something other than Jesus has been your highest treasure. Confess any ways you've sinfully kept silent about Jesus as the only means of genuine salvation.
21. Thanksgiving. Thank God for drawing you to Jesus and providing true and everlasting satisfaction in Him. Thank God for Ecclesiastes and the critical lessons we learn from it. Thank God for helping you see the folly and futility of seeking true joy in the things of this earth. Thank God for giving real joy in the things of this earth in Jesus. Thank God for your salvation.
22. Supplication. Ask God to open the eyes of someone you love who is stuck in the same vain pursuits as was the Preacher. Ask God to open the eyes of someone you love to behold His beauty. Ask God to help us to be a church that helps one another pray fervently and share the gospel boldly. Ask God to help us treasure Jesus above all things.