

For in much wisdom is much grief, and he  
who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:18

# From Inside to Outside

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“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher;

“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”

Ecclesiastes 1:2

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And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know  
madness and folly. I perceived that this also is  
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And I (his action) set my heart (*lēb*) to know (*yāda*) wisdom and to know (*yāda*) madness (delusion, to try anything and everything just to know the outcome, being rash and foolish to an extreme degree) and folly (foolishness, a life devoid of wisdom, understanding, prudence, self-restraint).

I perceived (*yāda*) that this also (among other things) is grasping for the wind.

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Ecclesiastes 1:18

The more you know about men, the more you  
hurt and grieve over them and yourself.

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The more you know about men, the more you  
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And the closer you get to God,  
the more this world and all it entails grieves you.

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There is no antidote for evil in this life.



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Guess how that journey turned out?

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I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure”;  
but surely, this also was vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:1

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Ecclesiastes 2:1

It's selfish gratification without any thought of others.



# From Inside to Outside

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If it was vanity, why did you continue in it?

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Why not cut your losses and move on  
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Why continue in something you know won't work?

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Why did you have to learn the same lesson  
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God and forget the meaningless lust of your flesh?

Why did you have to learn the same lesson  
over and over again?

Why are you acting just like me?

# From Inside to Outside



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Now Solomon, refusing to submit to wisdom, is doubling-down on his pursuit of sensuality.

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“If it doesn’t work the first time, try, try, again.”

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I said of laughter—“Madness! (senseless, silly, pointless)”; and of mirth (the experience and manifestation of joy and gladness),  
“What does it (laughter, pleasure, mirth) accomplish (gain, purpose, meaning)?

Ecclesiastes 2:2



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What is the purpose of a life lived only for yourself?

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What is the purpose of a life lived only for yourself?  
After all, selfishness never leads to true happiness.

# From Inside to Outside



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I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.

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I searched in my heart (*lēb*) how (process) to gratify (to drag off, pull out) my flesh with wine, while (at the same time) guiding (leading, directing) my heart (*lēb*) with wisdom, and how (process) to lay hold (grasp, seize, hold firmly) on folly (foolishness, a life devoid of wisdom, understanding, prudence, self-restraint), till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven (while on earth) all the days of their lives.

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I searched in my heart (*lēb*) how (process) to gratify (to drag off, pull out) my flesh with wine, while (at the same time) guiding (leading, directing) my heart (*lēb*) with wisdom, and how (process) to lay hold (grasp, seize, hold firmly) on folly (foolishness, a life devoid of wisdom, understanding, prudence, self-restraint), till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven (while on earth) all the days of their lives.

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Do you see a problem with this type of thinking?

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And since I have already determined what that is (wine, folly, mirth, etc.), I now need to figure out exactly how to find my happiness in these things.

Do you see a problem with this type of thinking?

Everything is about self and the flesh,  
and nothing about the higher things in life.

# The Sin of Self-Delusion

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Solomon now gives us a list of things he did to find happiness that makes many today jealous.

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He invested in farming and vineyards.

He acquired the most sophisticated irrigation systems.

He hired personal servants and entertainers.

He had a fleet of cars and planes, unlike anyone else.

He accumulated vast amounts of money, etc.

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Sounds like many of us today, doesn't it?

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I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-6

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**I made my works** great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.

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I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me. I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds.

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Ecclesiastes 2:9

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Truth:

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Truth:

Deception:

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Truth: So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem (on a fleshly level).

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This was not the wisdom of God,  
but the wisdom of man.

# The Sin of Self-Delusion

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What happens when we exchange the truth of God for a lie we try to convince ourselves is the truth?

# The Sin of Self-Delusion

What happens when we exchange the truth of God for a lie we try to convince ourselves is the truth?

What are the consequences of that action?

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“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14

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# Two Choices



# Two Choices

Wide Road and Narrow Road

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Wide Road and Narrow Road  
Life and Death

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Life and Death

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Spirit and Flesh

# Two Choices

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Life and Death

Hot and Cold

Light and Darkness

Spirit and Flesh

Good Fruit and Bad Fruit

# Two Choices

Wide Road and Narrow Road

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Get the point?

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Galatians 5:16-17

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I say then: Walk in the Spirit,  
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And the rest of the story...

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I say then: Walk in the Spirit,  
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And the rest of the story...

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit,  
and the Spirit against the flesh;  
and these are contrary to one another,  
so that you do not do the things that you wish.

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For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:5

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For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

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Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4



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And let everything else fall to the wayside.

# Two Choices



# Two Choices

Choose wisely.