

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Human vs Godly Wisdom

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Human vs Godly Wisdom

So I became great and excelled more than all
who were before me in Jerusalem.

Also my (not God's) wisdom remained with me.

Ecclesiastes 2:9

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Human vs Godly Wisdom

So I became great and excelled more than all
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Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Human vs Godly Wisdom

So I became great and excelled more than all
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Also my (not God's) wisdom remained with me.

Ecclesiastes 2:9

Next, unhindered sin and lust.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them.
I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure,
for my heart rejoiced in all my labor;
and this was my reward from all my labor.

Ecclesiastes 2:10

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them.

I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure,
for my heart rejoiced in all my labor;
and this was my reward from all my labor.

Ecclesiastes 2:10

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Ecclesiastes 2:10

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
I did not keep from them.

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Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) **my eyes desired** (strong desire, lust)
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Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
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Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
I did not keep from them.

No self restraint.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
I did not keep from them.

No self restraint.

No discernment of good or evil desires.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
I did not keep from them.

No self restraint.

No discernment of good or evil desires.

Solomon did not refuse himself anything.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

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No discernment of good or evil desires.

Solomon did not refuse himself anything.

He embraced unhindered lusts.

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Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
I did not keep from them.

No self restraint.

No discernment of good or evil desires.

Solomon did not refuse himself anything.

He embraced unhindered lusts.

Remember 1 John 2:16.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
I did not keep from them.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
I did not keep from them.

For all that is in the world— the (1) lust of the flesh,
the (2) lust of the eyes, and the (3) pride of life—
is not of the Father but is of the world.

1 John 2:16

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Whatever (*kōl*) my eyes desired (strong desire, lust)
I did not keep from them.

For all that is in the world— the (1) lust of the flesh,
the (2) lust of the eyes, and the (3) pride of life—
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For all that is in the world— the (1) lust of the flesh,
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is not of the Father but is of the world.

1 John 2:16

Now, look at this passage in context.

1 John 2:15-17

1 John 2:15-17

Command:

1 John 2:15-17

Command:

Reason:

1 John 2:15-17

Command: Do not love the world
or the things in the world.

Reason:

1 John 2:15-17

Command: **Do not love the world**
or the things in the world.

Reason:

1 John 2:15-17

Command: Do not love the world
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Reason:

1 John 2:15-17

Command: **Do not love the world
or the things in the world.**

Reason: If anyone loves the world,
(then) the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:15-17

Command: **Do not love the world
or the things in the world.**

Reason: **If anyone loves the world,**
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1 John 2:15-17

Command: Do not love the world
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1 John 2:15-17

1 John 2:15-17

Reason:

1 John 2:15-17

Reason:

Promise:

1 John 2:15-17

Reason: For all that is in the world— the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life— is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;

Promise:

1 John 2:15-17

Reason: **For all that is in the world**— the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life— is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;

Promise:

1 John 2:15-17

Reason: **For all that is in the world— the lust of the flesh**, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life— is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;

Promise:

1 John 2:15-17

Reason: For all that is in the world— the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life— is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;

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Reason: For all that is in the world— the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life— is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;

Promise: but he who does the will of God (not to love the world, etc.) abides forever.

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Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I did not withhold my heart from any (*kōl*) pleasure (sensory, fleshly, the experience of pleasure), for my heart rejoiced in all my labor (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life); and this (the experience of sensory, fleshly pleasure) was my reward from all my labor (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life);

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I did not withhold my heart from any (*kōl*) pleasure
(sensory, fleshly, the experience of pleasure),
for my heart rejoiced in all my labor (trouble, toil,
sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life);
and this (the experience of sensory, fleshly pleasure)
was my reward from all my labor (trouble, toil,
sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life);

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Really?

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I did not withhold my heart from any (*kōl*) pleasure
(sensory, fleshly, the experience of pleasure),
for my heart rejoiced in all my labor (trouble, toil,
sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life);
and this (the experience of sensory, fleshly pleasure)
was my reward from all my labor (trouble, toil,
sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life);

Really? Just eat, drink, and be merry before you die?

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I did not withhold my heart from any (*kōl*) pleasure (sensory, fleshly, the experience of pleasure), for my heart rejoiced in all my labor (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life); and this (the experience of sensory, fleshly pleasure) was my reward from all my labor (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life);

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Live for whatever makes you feel good?

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

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No higher purpose, nothing of any eternal value?

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This was the wisdom of Solomon in his later life.

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And what conclusion did Solomon come to?

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:11

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had
done and on the labor in which I had toiled;
and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind.
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Stupid Is as Stupid Does

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Then I looked (contemplated, considered) on all the works that my hands had done (what I had created, built, composed, produced, accomplished through effort) and on the labor (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life) in which I had toiled (to exert oneself, to work hard);

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Then I looked (contemplated, considered) on all the works that my hands had done (what I had created, built, composed, produced, accomplished through effort) and on the labor (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life) in which I had toiled (to exert oneself, to work hard);

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Then I looked (contemplated, considered) **on all the works that my hands had done** (what I had created, built, composed, produced, accomplished through effort) **and on the labor** (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life) **in which I had toiled** (to exert oneself, to work hard);

And the conclusion?

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

and indeed all (work, toil, labor, pleasure, fulfilling lusts, etc.) was vanity (emptiness, meaningless, pointless, weariness, having no value or significance, futile, transitory, breath or vapor) and grasping for the wind. There was no profit (benefit, advantage, gain) under the sun (living life on the earth).

Ecclesiastes 2:11

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and indeed all (work, toil, labor, pleasure, fulfilling lusts, etc.) was vanity (emptiness, meaningless, pointless, weariness, having no value or significance, futile, transitory, breath or vapor) and grasping for the wind. There was no profit (benefit, advantage, gain) under the sun (living life on the earth).

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Ecclesiastes 2:11

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Ecclesiastes 2:11

But this is the same conclusion he had earlier.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;
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Ecclesiastes 1:14

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I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;
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Ecclesiastes 1:14

How stupid it is to know the futility of something,
yet try and try again, hoping to get a different answer.

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

How stupid it is to know the futility of something,
yet try and try again, hoping to get a different answer.

“Stupid is as stupid does.”

Stupid Is as Stupid Does

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

How stupid it is to know the futility of something,
yet try and try again, hoping to get a different answer.

“Stupid is as stupid does.”

Forrest Gump

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?— only what he has already done.

Ecclesiastes 2:12

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?— only what he has already done.

Ecclesiastes 2:12

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?— only what he has already done.

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Ecclesiastes 2:12

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Ecclesiastes 2:12

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?— only what he has already done.

Ecclesiastes 2:12

Note the progression.

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?— only what he has already done.

Ecclesiastes 2:12

Note the progression.

First, he considers wisdom, madness, and folly.

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?— only what he has already done.

Ecclesiastes 2:12

Note the progression.

First, he considers wisdom, madness, and folly.

Then, the question and answer which leads to despair.

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?— only what he has already done.

Ecclesiastes 2:12

Note the progression.

First, he considers wisdom, madness, and folly.

Then, the question and answer which leads to despair.

Finally, Solomon looks at life from another viewpoint.

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself (to change directions) to consider (to look at intently, to take into consideration) wisdom (skill, understanding, experience, to apply acquired knowledge) and madness (the quality of being rash and foolish to an extreme degree, to act crazy, delusional) and folly (the trait of acting stupidly, a way of life devoid of wisdom, senseless behavior);

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself (to change directions) to consider (to look at intently, to take into consideration) wisdom (skill, understanding, experience, to apply acquired knowledge) and madness (the quality of being rash and foolish to an extreme degree, to act crazy, delusional) and folly (the trait of acting stupidly, a way of life devoid of wisdom, senseless behavior);

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

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Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself (to change directions)
to consider (to look at intently, to take into
consideration) **wisdom** (skill, understanding,
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madness (the quality of being rash and foolish to an
extreme degree, to act crazy, delusional)
and folly (the trait of acting stupidly, a way of life
devoid of wisdom, senseless behavior);

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Then I turned myself (to change directions) to consider (to look at intently, to take into consideration) wisdom (skill, understanding, experience, to apply acquired knowledge) and madness (the quality of being rash and foolish to an extreme degree, to act crazy, delusional) and folly (the trait of acting stupidly, a way of life devoid of wisdom, senseless behavior);

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And how did that turn out for you, Solomon?

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question:

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question:

Answer:

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: for what can the man do who succeeds
(comes after) the king?—

Answer:

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
(comes after) the king?—

Answer:

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
(comes after) **the king?**—

Answer:

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
(comes after) **the king?**—

Answer: only what he has already done.

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

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Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
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Answer: **only what he has already done.**

Admittedly, this is a difficult verse.

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
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Answer: **only what he has already done.**

Admittedly, this is a difficult verse.

Since I have not found the answers, Solomon says,
the kings who come after me will ask the same
questions and also find no answers.

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
(comes after) **the king?**—

Answer: **only what he has already done.**

Admittedly, this is a difficult verse.

Since I have not found the answers, Solomon says,
the kings who come after me will ask the same
questions and also find no answers.

“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
(comes after) **the king?**—

Answer: **only what he has already done.**

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
(comes after) **the king?**—

Answer: **only what he has already done.**

But what conclusions have you come to Solomon?

Wisdom, Madness, and Folly

Question: **for what can the man do who succeeds**
(comes after) **the king?**—

Answer: **only what he has already done.**

But what conclusions have you come to Solomon?

Let me list them for you.

Wisdom is Better than Folly

Wisdom is Better than Folly

Then (time) I saw that wisdom excels folly
(to what degree) as light excels darkness.

The wise man's eyes are in his head,
but the fool walks in darkness.

Yet I myself perceived (*yāda*' - *ginōskō* in Greek)
that the same event happens to them all.

Ecclesiastes 2:13-14

Wisdom is Better than Folly

Then (time) I saw that wisdom excels folly
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that the same event happens to them all.

Ecclesiastes 2:13-14

What event is Solomon talking about?

Wisdom is Better than Folly

Then (time) I saw that wisdom excels folly
(to what degree) as light excels darkness.

The wise man's eyes are in his head,
but the fool walks in darkness.

Yet I myself perceived (*yāda*' - *ginōskō* in Greek)
that the same event happens to them all.

Ecclesiastes 2:13-14

What event is Solomon talking about? Death.

Death Comes to All, Good and Bad

Death Comes to All, Good and Bad

So I said in my heart,
“As it (death) happens to the fool,
it (death) also happens to me,
and why was I then more wise (if we both die)?”
Then I said in my heart, “This also is vanity.”

Ecclesiastes 2:15

Death Comes to All, Good and Bad

So I said in my heart,

“As it (death) happens to the fool,
it (death) also happens to me,

and why was I then more wise (if we both die)?”

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Ecclesiastes 2:15

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Ecclesiastes 2:15

But surely the wise man will be remembered for his wisdom?

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But surely the wise man will be remembered for his wisdom? Surely that is better than being a fool.

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Ecclesiastes 2:15

But surely the wise man will be remembered for his wisdom? Surely that is better than being a fool.

Maybe not.

And Life Moves On Without You

And Life Moves On Without You

For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, (why) since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.

Question:

Answer:

Ecclesiastes 2:16

And Life Moves On Without You

For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, (why) since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.

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And Life Moves On Without You

For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, (why) since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.

Question: And how does a wise man die?

Answer:

Ecclesiastes 2:16

And Life Moves On Without You

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Question: And how does a wise man die?

Answer:

Ecclesiastes 2:16

And Life Moves On Without You

For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, (why) since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.

Question: And how does a wise man die?

Answer: As the fool!

Ecclesiastes 2:16

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Ecclesiastes 2:16

He repeats what he learned in the beginning.

And Life Moves On Without You

For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, (why) since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.

Question: And how does a wise man die?

Answer: As the fool!

Ecclesiastes 2:16

He repeats what he learned in the beginning.

And now he has to learn it again.

And Life Moves On Without You

And Life Moves On Without You

There is no remembrance of former things,
nor will there be any remembrance of things
that are to come by those who will come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:11

And Life Moves On Without You

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There is no remembrance of former things,
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Ecclesiastes 1:11

No remembrance for either the wise or the fool.

And Life Moves On Without You

There is no remembrance of former things,
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No remembrance for either the wise or the fool.
And this leads Solomon to hate life in general.

And Life Moves On Without You

There is no remembrance of former things,
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Ecclesiastes 1:11

No remembrance for either the wise or the fool.

And this leads Solomon to hate life in general.

But in the midst of his hatred and pain,
he comes to an incredibly stupid conclusion.

From Stupidity to Hatred

From Stupidity to Hatred

Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-18

From Stupidity to Hatred

Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

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From Stupidity to Hatred

From Stupidity to Hatred

Therefore (based on what has come before) I hated
(to dislike intensely, to scorn) life (one's existence)
(why) because the work that was
done under the sun was distressing (to cause
displeasure, to be bad, evil, troubling) to me,
(why) for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:17

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(why) **for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.**

Ecclesiastes 2:17

But it now goes from bad to worse.

From Stupidity to Hatred

From Stupidity to Hatred

Then (time) I hated all my labor (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life) in which I had toiled (meaningless human effort, to do unpleasant work, misery, oppression) under the sun, (why) because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.

Ecclesiastes 2:18

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Then (time) I hated all my labor (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life) in which I had toiled (meaningless human effort, to do unpleasant work, misery, oppression) under the sun, (why) because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.

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Ecclesiastes 2:18

Why does it bother you so much to leave the work of your life to someone else?

From Stupidity to Hatred

Then (time) **I hated all my labor** (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life) **in which I had toiled** (meaningless human effort, to do unpleasant work, misery, oppression) **under the sun,** (why) **because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.**

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Ecclesiastes 2:18

I would think you would be pleased to bless someone with what you have accomplished in your life.

From Stupidity to Hatred

Then (time) **I hated all my labor** (trouble, toil, sorrow, painful work, the hardships of life) **in which I had toiled** (meaningless human effort, to do unpleasant work, misery, oppression) **under the sun,** (why) **because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.**

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Ecclesiastes 2:18

Why is it such a concern to you?

From Stupidity to Hatred

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?
Yet he (wise or fool) will rule over all my labor
in which I toiled and in which I have shown
myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:19

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?

Yet he (wise or fool) will rule over all my labor
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Ecclesiastes 2:19

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?

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Ecclesiastes 2:19

But you will be dead, why should you care?

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?
Yet he (wise or fool) will rule over all my labor
in which I toiled and in which I have shown
myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:19

But you will be dead, why should you care?
Does it show your life has meant nothing?

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?
Yet he (wise or fool) will rule over all my labor
in which I toiled and in which I have shown
myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:19

But you will be dead, why should you care?

Does it show your life has meant nothing?

Does it mean it all has little lasting, eternal value?

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?
Yet he (wise or fool) will rule over all my labor
in which I toiled and in which I have shown
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in which I toiled and in which I have shown
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Ecclesiastes 2:19

Have you wasted your life accumulating things you
cannot keep and forsaking things you can?

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?
Yet he (wise or fool) will rule over all my labor
in which I toiled and in which I have shown
myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:19

Have you wasted your life accumulating things you
cannot keep and forsaking things you can?
Have you made the wrong choice, Solomon?

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?
Yet he (wise or fool) will rule over all my labor
in which I toiled and in which I have shown
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myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:19

Did you travel down the wide path in your life and
not the narrow way that leads to life?

From Stupidity to Hatred

And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool?
Yet he (wise or fool) will rule over all my labor
in which I toiled and in which I have shown
myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:19

Did you travel down the wide path in your life and
not the narrow way that leads to life?

No wonder you hate life and all the work you did.

From Stupidity to Hatred

From Stupidity to Hatred

Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun.

For there is a man (is this you, Solomon?) whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage (portion, share, inheritance) to a man who has not labored for it.

This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:20-21

From Stupidity to Hatred

Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun.

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Ecclesiastes 2:20-21

And we've gone from vanity to a great evil.

From Stupidity to Hatred

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Ecclesiastes 2:20-21

And we've gone from vanity to a great evil. Why?

From Stupidity to Hatred

From Stupidity to Hatred

Therefore I turned (to consider from another perspective, to change directions) my heart and despaired (to cause or allow oneself to abandon hope or lose heart, to give up) of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:20

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Ecclesiastes 2:20

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Ecclesiastes 2:20

Now, everything you've done in your life
has no value in your eyes?

From Stupidity to Hatred

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Ecclesiastes 2:20

Now, everything you've done in your life
has no value in your eyes?

Even to the point of hating life itself?

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Ecclesiastes 2:20

Why Solomon?

From Stupidity to Hatred

Therefore I turned (to consider from another perspective, to change directions) **my heart and despaired** (to cause or allow oneself to abandon hope or lose heart, to give up) **of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun.**

Ecclesiastes 2:20

Why Solomon?

What has made you so bitter?

From Stupidity to Hatred

From Stupidity to Hatred

For there is a man (is this you, Solomon?) whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must (not may or might) leave his heritage (inheritance) to a man (your son?) who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:21

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For there is a man (is this you, Solomon?) whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must (not may or might) leave his heritage (inheritance) to a man (your son?) who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

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Ecclesiastes 2:21

Isn't that the nature of an inheritance?

From Stupidity to Hatred

For there is a man (is this you, Solomon?) whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must (not may or might) leave his heritage (inheritance) to a man (your son?) who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:21

Isn't that the nature of an inheritance?

Do you think you can take everything with you when you die?

From Stupidity to Hatred

For there is a man (is this you, Solomon?) whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must (not may or might) leave his heritage (inheritance) to a man (your son?) who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

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Ecclesiastes 2:21

It seems your selfishness is beginning to show.

From Stupidity to Hatred

For there is a man (is this you, Solomon?) whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must (not may or might) leave his heritage (inheritance) to a man (your son?) who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:21

It seems your selfishness is beginning to show. Why do you call it a great evil to bless your children with the fruits of your labor?

From Stupidity to Hatred

For there is a man (is this you, Solomon?) whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must (not may or might) leave his heritage (inheritance) to a man (your son?) who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:21

Again, why Solomon?

From Stupidity to Hatred

For there is a man (is this you, Solomon?) whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must (not may or might) leave his heritage (inheritance) to a man (your son?) who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

Ecclesiastes 2:21

Again, why Solomon?

What made you so bitter?

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

Question:

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

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Answer:

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Question:

Ecclesiastes 2:22

Answer:

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

Question:

Ecclesiastes 2:22

Answer:

Ecclesiastes 2:23

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

Question: For what has man for all his labor,
and for the striving of his heart with which
he has toiled under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 2:22

Answer:

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The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

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The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

Question: For what has man for all his labor,
and for the striving of his heart with which
he has toiled under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 2:22

Answer: For all his days are sorrowful,
and his work burdensome; even in the night
his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.

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Note, it has been a long time since Solomon has had an intimate relationship with His Lord.

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He, like many of us, has tried to fill the void in his life with sensual pleasure, wealth, entertainment, and becoming a workaholic, hoping to once again feel what he did when God was close.

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

Note, it has been a long time since Solomon has had an intimate relationship with His Lord.

He, like many of us, has tried to fill the void in his life with sensual pleasure, wealth, entertainment, and becoming a workaholic, hoping to once again feel what he did when God was close.

So, it is not surprising he comes to a carnal, fleshy conclusion about the meaning of life and then tries to justify it by saying God ordained it for him.

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

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Sin has an amazing ability to make armchair prophets and theologians of those who are trying to justify their carnality.

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Just like Solomon.

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The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

Sin has an amazing ability to make armchair prophets and theologians of those who are trying to justify their carnality.

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This is not the wisdom of God,
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The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

Sin has an amazing ability to make armchair prophets and theologians of those who are trying to justify their carnality.

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This is not the wisdom of God,
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It is nothing more than justifying the lusts of the flesh.

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

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So beware.

The Q and A and Wrong Conclusion

Sin has an amazing ability to make armchair prophets and theologians of those who are trying to justify their carnality.

Just like Solomon.

And just like Joel Osteen, and others.

This is not the wisdom of God,
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It is nothing more than justifying the lusts of the flesh.

So beware. Don't be like Solomon (or Joel).

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
more than I?

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

Hedonism 101

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I?

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No one.

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For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
more than I?

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

No one.

Yet you are still miserable, Solomon, and hate life.

Hedonism 101

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
more than I?

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

No one.

Yet you are still miserable, Solomon, and hate life.

So how is that working out for you?

Hedonism 101

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Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor.

Ecclesiastes 2:24a

Hedonism 101

Nothing is better for a man than that he should
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Ecclesiastes 2:24a

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Hedonism 101

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor.

Ecclesiastes 2:24a

But since Solomon is trying to convince himself this is true, he must somehow silence the voice of God telling him otherwise.

Hedonism 101

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor.

Ecclesiastes 2:24a

But since Solomon is trying to convince himself this is true, he must somehow silence the voice of God telling him otherwise.

So he'll do some gymnastics with the voice of God.

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24b

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Ecclesiastes 2:24b

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Ecclesiastes 2:24b

This is where confusion sets in.

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24b

This is where confusion sets in.

There are two ways to interpret this passage.

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24b

This is where confusion sets in.

There are two ways to interpret this passage.

One, it is true that God gives us pleasure in the accomplishment of things and in eating and drinking.

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24b

This is where confusion sets in.

There are two ways to interpret this passage.

One, it is true that God gives us pleasure in the accomplishment of things and in eating and drinking.

So this becomes a positive statement in the midst of Solomon's despair.

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24b

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This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

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There are two ways to interpret this passage.

Two, Solomon is trying to justify his conclusion that all life's enjoyments are tied to the flesh, what we eat, drink, and do, and not in our relationship with God.

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24b

This is where confusion sets in.

There are two ways to interpret this passage.

Two, Solomon is trying to justify his conclusion that all life's enjoyments are tied to the flesh, what we eat, drink, and do, and not in our relationship with God.

And He invokes God in his faulty argument.

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24b

This is where confusion sets in.

There are two ways to interpret this passage.

Hedonism 101

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Ecclesiastes 2:24b

This is where confusion sets in.

There are two ways to interpret this passage.

Which one is true?

Hedonism 101

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Which one is true?

Or is there another interpretation?

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Which one is true?

Or is there another interpretation?

Are there some underlying assumptions of Solomon?

Hedonism 101

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Ecclesiastes 2:24b

This is where confusion sets in.

There are two ways to interpret this passage.

Which one is true?

Or is there another interpretation?

Are there some underlying assumptions of Solomon?

Let's look at some evidence to consider.

Hedonism 101

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Acts 1, the choosing of Matthias by lot.

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Other conclusions by Solomon in Ecclesiastes.

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Other conclusions by Solomon in Ecclesiastes.

Remember the life of Solomon and where he is spiritually at this point in time.

Hedonism 101

Acts 1, the choosing of Matthias by lot.

Other conclusions by Solomon in Ecclesiastes.

Remember the life of Solomon and where he is spiritually at this point in time.

And also remember there is no indication in Scripture that Solomon ever repented or returned to his life of intimacy with the Lord.

Hedonism 101

Acts 1, the choosing of Matthias by lot.

Other conclusions by Solomon in Ecclesiastes.

Remember the life of Solomon and where he is spiritually at this point in time.

And also remember there is no indication in Scripture that Solomon ever repented or returned to his life of intimacy with the Lord.

In fact, the evidence points to just the opposite.

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

So I commended enjoyment, (why) because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this (enjoyment) will remain with him in his labor all the days of his life which God gives him under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 8:15

Hedonism 101

So I commended enjoyment, (why) because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this (enjoyment) will remain with him in his labor all the days of his life which God gives him under the sun.

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Ecclesiastes 8:15

Hedonism 101

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Ecclesiastes 8:15

In other words, according to Solomon, enjoy what you have, for that is why God created you in the first place. Have your best life now.

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.

Ecclesiastes 5:18

Hedonism 101

Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.

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Ecclesiastes 5:18

Really? That (eat, drink, and enjoy the good of one's labor) is God's inheritance (heritage) to His children?

Hedonism 101

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Ecclesiastes 5:18

Really? That (eat, drink, and enjoy the good of one's labor) is God's inheritance (heritage) to His children?

But Solomon continues.

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God. For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, (why) because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart.

Ecclesiastes 5:19-20

Hedonism 101

As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God. For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, (why) because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart.

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Ecclesiastes 5:19-20

Does this sound like the life Jesus promised those who followed Him?

Hedonism 101

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Ecclesiastes 5:19-20

Or does this sound like a rich man selfishly trying to justify living in his opulence?

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As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God. For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, (why) because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart.

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Ecclesiastes 5:19-20

You choose.

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:24b

Hedonism 101

This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

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No you didn't, Solomon.

Hedonism 101

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Ecclesiastes 2:24b

No you didn't, Solomon.

God did not tell you this, you made it up yourself.

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No you didn't, Solomon.

God did not tell you this, you made it up yourself.

And the last verse shows what Solomon was thinking.

Hedonism 101

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If God blesses those who are good, and Solomon is good and blessed by God, then why is that vanity?

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No you didn't, Solomon.

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And the last verse shows what Solomon was thinking.

If God blesses those who are good, and Solomon is good and blessed by God, then why is that vanity?

Why would it not be something to proclaim?

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
more than I?

Ecclesiastes 2:25

Hedonism 101

For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
more than I?

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Hedonism 101

For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
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Ecclesiastes 2:25

True. But this is holding your life and wealth out
as a beacon for others to follow.

Hedonism 101

For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
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Ecclesiastes 2:25

True. But this is holding your life and wealth out
as a beacon for others to follow.

You become the standard others judge themselves by.

Hedonism 101

For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
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True. But this is holding your life and wealth out
as a beacon for others to follow.

You become the standard others judge themselves by.

You become the person they want to be.

Hedonism 101

For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment,
more than I?

Ecclesiastes 2:25

True. But this is holding your life and wealth out
as a beacon for others to follow.

You become the standard others judge themselves by.

You become the person they want to be.

Yet your spiritual life, Solomon, is still greatly lacking.

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight (is this you, Solomon?); but to the sinners He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God (again, are you talking about yourself?).

Ecclesiastes 2:26a

Hedonism 101

For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight (is this you, Solomon?); but to the sinners He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God (again, are you talking about yourself?).

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Ecclesiastes 2:26a

And if this is a true statement, then Solomon would wear his wealth as a badge of honor, showing all how pleased God is with him.

Hedonism 101

For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight (is this you, Solomon?); but to the sinners He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God (again, are you talking about yourself?).

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He would be like the prosperity preachers who say we can have what Solomon has if we only act like Solomon and do the things he does.

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Ecclesiastes 2:26a

Do you remember what Solomon did?

Hedonism 101

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Ecclesiastes 2:26a

Do you remember what Solomon did?
Do you remember God was angry with Him?

Hedonism 101

For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight (is this you, Solomon?); but to the sinners He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God (again, are you talking about yourself?).

Ecclesiastes 2:26a

Do you remember what Solomon did?
Do you remember God was angry with Him?
And can you recall when Solomon repented?

Hedonism 101

For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight (is this you, Solomon?); but to the sinners He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God (again, are you talking about yourself?).

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Ecclesiastes 2:26a

Me neither.

Hedonism 101

For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight (is this you, Solomon?); but to the sinners He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God (again, are you talking about yourself?).

Ecclesiastes 2:26a

Me neither.

And that is why even Solomon calls this type of thinking vanity, something worth nothing.

Hedonism 101

Hedonism 101

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Hedonism 101

This also is **vanity** and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Hedonism 101

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Hedonism 101

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Lessons from Solomon's life.

Hedonism 101

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Lessons from Solomon's life.

Don't be like Solomon.

Hedonism 101

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Lessons from Solomon's life.

Don't be like Solomon.

Be like Christ.

Hedonism 101

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Lessons from Solomon's life.

Don't be like Solomon.

Be like Christ.

And the difference between this older Solomon and Jesus are stark and striking.

Hedonism 101

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Lessons from Solomon's life.

Don't be like Solomon.

Be like Christ.

And the difference between this older Solomon and Jesus are stark and striking.

So don't be like the Solomon of Ecclesiastes.

Hedonism 101

This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:26b

Lessons from Solomon's life.

Don't be like Solomon.

Be like Christ.

And the difference between this older Solomon and Jesus are stark and striking.

So don't be like the Solomon of Ecclesiastes. Ever.