

Ecc 2:1-3 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.

It would appear that people are turning to the same test, without the ability that Solomon had to be guided by wisdom.

Drug use is highest among age 18-25.
Over 90% of addicts begin smoking, drinking and using illicit drugs before age 18.

Heroin use is up 145% in last decade.
Drugs are purchased with ratings of quality and purity on the internet with sites “pretty much like eBay.”

As we look at our lives as Christians,
have we found happiness? The
peace that passes understanding?

Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice!

Rejoice – a verb meaning “to be full
of cheer, calmly happy or well off”

Our children are immersing themselves in online games. Their lives do not give them the continual novelty that their minds desire.

Many young (and old) people forget how they are made happy.

Ecc 2:4-11 ... I built houses ... planted vineyards ... made gardens and parks ...planted ... all kinds of fruit trees; (6) I made ponds ... to irrigate a forest of growing trees. (7) I bought male and female slaves ... possessed flocks and herds ... collected ... silver and gold ... provided ... male and female singers and the pleasures of men--many concubines. (9) ... My wisdom also stood by me. (10) All that my eyes desired I did not refuse ... I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, ... (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.

Ecc 2:21-24 When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge and skill, then he gives his legacy to one who has not labored with them. This too is vanity and a great evil. (22) For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun? (23) Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity. (24) There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God.

A question for you, Do you take joy in your labor – whether it's working in an office or on a car, whether teaching small children or large adults, whether preparing a meal or cleaning a house.

Your labor is good, it's from the hand of God!

The joy is not in “having”, but the new experience of “getting.”

Children play at games and when they have “conquered” the game, it becomes boring.

“We’ve misunderstood fun to mean enjoyment without effort.

We have to find happiness (fun) in everyday things.

We take pleasure in doing what we can with what
we have been given.

#67 Supplement

I love you, Lord And I lift my voice
To worship You Oh, my soul, rejoice!

Take joy my King In what You hear
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound In Your ear

I trust that you enjoyed that even as
you asked the Lord to take joy in your
singing praises to Him.

Ecc 3:9 What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils? (10) I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. (11) He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. (12) I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; (13) moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor--it is the gift of God.

Are you enjoying God's gifts?

Why not?

Have you learned to take joy in all that
you do.

If it's in keeping with the Lord's will, you
will be serving the Lord, even as you
serve others.

Php 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (8) Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Ecc3. 22 I have seen that nothing is better than that man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot. For who will bring him to see what will occur after him?

#400 “I care not today what the morrow may bring,
If shadow or sunshine or rain,
The Lord I know ruleth o’er everything,
And all of my worries are vain.
Living by faith in Jesus above,
Trusting, confiding in His great love;
From all harm safe in His sheltering arm,
I’m living by faith and feel no alarm.”

Mat 6:25... Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? (26) "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? (27) "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? (28) "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, (29) yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. (30) "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!

Ecc 5:16 This also is a grievous evil--exactly as a man is born, thus will he die. So what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind? (17) Throughout his life he also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger.

You can't take it with you, so enjoy it now.

If you are unhappy about your life, consider what it would take to fix it.

A new wife – Solomon tried it and found that it did not bring joy. The divorce rate in 2nd marriages is higher than in 1st marriages.

Ecc 5.18 Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.

People can be miserable or happy in whatever situation they find themselves.

Php 4:11-12 Not that I speak from want,
for I have learned to be content in
whatever circumstances I am. (12) I
know how to get along with humble
means, and I also know how to live in
prosperity; in any and every circumstance
I have learned the secret of being filled
and going hungry, both of having
abundance and suffering need.

One of the biggest problems we have is in not finding joy in work.

Ecc 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Work for the night is coming #789

Fill brightest hours with labor,

Rest comes sure and soon.

Give every flying minute,

Something to keep in store;

Be sure to enjoy your work in the Lord.

Consider the atheist for whom there is no reason for joy in work. He has no reason to please his master (employer). He has no real reason work to serve others, not even family or friends.

His only reason to work is to promote self.

What if he is unsuccessful? Where will he find peace, joy or fulfillment for life has no meaning?

Luk 12:16, "The land of a rich man was very productive. (17) "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' (18) "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. (19) 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" (20) "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' (21) "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you

Why not put your trust in God, giving you joy in all that you do, knowing that your reward, even if not evident here, awaits you in heaven?

Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (38)

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.