

IS REAL HAPPINESS TRULY POSSIBLE?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

INTRODUCTION: No one among us wants to go through this life unhappy. What we all want is to be happy in this life. Even in our national constitution we find these words: "... Among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is so sad that many people are unhappy most of the time. Sometimes we wonder "Is true happiness in this life really possible?" Could it be that most people are looking for happiness in all the wrong places? King Solomon really wondered about that: Ecclesiastes 1:1-2. King Solomon is a poster child for the person who has it all and is miserable. The phrase "under the sun" appears 29 times in the Book of Ecclesiastes. That little saying keeps God out of all our equations. If you leave God out of your equations you will wind up like Solomon.

I. THE AREA OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE!

Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived apart from our Lord Jesus yet he concluded as a man under the sun education, wisdom and knowledge will never bring happiness. Ecclesiastes 1:17-18.

II. HAPPINESS IN FUN AND GAMES!

Since happiness is not found in wisdom and knowledge under the sun how about fun and games? Ecclesiastes 2:1-2. 1 Timothy 6:17: If you leave God out of your equation you will learn that fun and games won't make you happy. Proverbs 14:13.

III. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL!

So many today are using drugs and alcohol to find true happiness: Ecclesiastes 2:3. Maybe a pill or a bottle of booze is what will bring true happiness: Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:29-35.

IV. MONEY AND POSSESSION!

True lasting happiness is not found in money and possessions. Solomon had all the wealth a man could want and said it did not bring him happiness: Ecclesiastes 2:8. So many say "If I just had more money I would be happy." Ecclesiastes 5:10-11.

V. SEX AND SEXUAL IMMORALITY!

Solomon next tried sex and sexual immorality and he found what so many others have found; true happiness is not found there: Ecclesiastes 2:8. Many concubines! A concubine is like a sex slave. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. We live today in a Romans 1 society: Romans 1:18-32; Hebrews 13:4.

VI. WORK AND ACHIEVEMENT!

Solomon said let's try work and achievement! Ecclesiastes 2:4-7. All the wonderful things Solomon built did not bring him happiness: Ecclesiastes 2:17. True happiness is found in the Lord Jesus: Ecclesiastes 2:24-25; Psalm 128:1-4. True happiness is found in the fear of the Lord!