

Old Testament Survey

Ecclesiastes

Does anything mean anything?

Main Point

Chase Jesus before chasing happiness



I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?”

Ecclesiastes 2: 1-2 NIV



I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

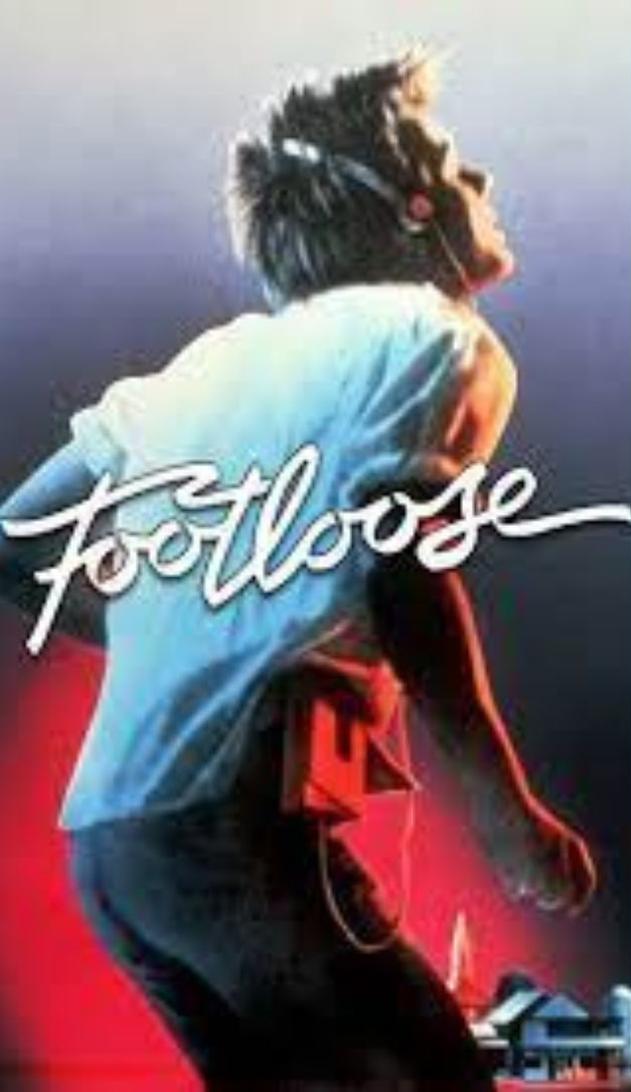
Ecclesiastes 2: 3 NIV



Cutting Loose!

- ❑ Tests himself with pleasure
- ❑ Drinking and partying
- ❑ Is this good? Does it mean anything?





Cutting Loose!

- ❑ God is not opposed to fun
- ❑ Fun eventually fades
- ❑ Bring Jesus into the fun
- ❑ Can Jesus be the “wingman”?



I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.

Ecclesiastes 2: 4-6 NIV



I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.

[Ecclesiastes 2: 7 NIV](#)



Possessions

- ❑ He created his own paradise
- ❑ Everything was for himself
- ❑ Owned more than what he needed





THE MAN

CAVE

GEOFF'S MAN CAVE



Welcome
to my
SHE SHED



Possessions

- ❑ It's ok to have “stuff” we value
- ❑ Check where you apply the most value
 - ❑ Your “stuff” or God?
- ❑ The possessions fade but God doesn't



I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem[a] as well—the delights of a man’s heart. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

Ecclesiastes 2: 8-9 NIV



Status

- ❑ Uses wealth to increase status
- ❑ Forms a personal choir
- ❑ Creates a harem
- ❑ All to become elite of all elites



Status

- ❑ We all have some type of status
- ❑ High societal status is fine
- ❑ Focus on your status as a child of God



**I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.
My heart took delight in all my labor,
and this was the reward for all my toil.**

Ecclesiastes 2: 10 NIV



Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2: 11 NIV



The Writer's Report

- ❑ He gave himself everything
- ❑ His heart was happy
- ❑ It wasn't worth it and meant nothing



Closing

- ❑ Nothing wrong with being happy
- ❑ Happiness will come and go
- ❑ Connect Jesus to happiness
- ❑ Chase Jesus before chasing happiness

