



**WEALTH + WISDOM + WORK = WIND**

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*Ecclesiastes 2:1-26*

“The purpose of Ecclesiastes was to convince men of the uselessness of any world view which does not rise above the horizon of man himself.”

*(Gleason Archer)*

The good life is a selfless response... to God, for a selfless sacrifice... by God. It's a self-denying response to a self-denying sacrifice.

- Mark 8:31-35
- Romans 12:1-2

The good life is a Godward life — your life making God known in His mercy to you.

Life “under the Son” is God’s one and only provision of lasting fulfillment this side of heaven.

Three truths Solomon declares about his deep dive into the value of worldly wealth, wisdom, and work in providing any advantage to a meaningful life:

## I. **Worldly Wealth** (Eccles. 2:1-11)

- His goal: “*enjoy yourself*”
- His conclusion: “...behold, it too was futility”

“*laughter*” = a loss of judgment. This person drowns the hard facts of life in a sea of frivolity. (*Michael Eaton*) Verse 3 deals with escaping reality through entertainment and partying.

How deep did his satisfaction go? How long did it last?

## II. Worldly Wisdom (Eccles. 2:12-17)

- Is human wisdom about the things of life *all* bad?
- “... *the fool walks in*”  
    “*walks*” = defined by

### III. Worldly Work (Eccles. 2:18-26)

- *“for I must leave it to a man who will come after me”*
- *“This too is emptiness and futility”*
- *“...completely despaired”*

Solomon realized he had brought this on himself.

Solomon is a believer looking back on a long season of his life when he strayed from faithfulness to God on a daily basis. He took for granted the blessings of God on his life, and he used those blessings to pursue foolishness. The contrast of life with God versus life ignoring God brought him to his senses, and now he writes with all of this in mind.

### III. Worldly Work (Eccles. 2:18-26)

Dr. William Barrick summarized Solomon's conclusion in Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 with three basic principles:

- “Man is not good.”
- “God is the Giver.”
- “There is no enjoyment in life apart from God.”

Walt Kaiser has a similar view of this section:

- “There is nothing (inherently) good in a person *per se*.”
- “No one can really appreciate even such elementary things as eating and drinking apart from a personal relationship with the living God.”
- “God alone — not things or wisdom — is the giver of satisfaction and joy.”
- “God also gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him.”

**Nothing in this life leaves this life,  
except your soul.**

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