



EXALTING JESUS CHRIST

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GRACE

## "The Empty Life: Pleasure"

ECCLESIASTES 2:1-11

**MAIN POINT: A GOOD DRINK, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE GOOD LIFE BRING MOMENTARY SATISFACTION, BUT LASTING PLEASURE IS ONLY FOUND IN CHRIST.**

### I. The Preacher's Pursuit: Pleasure (2:3-8)

- A. Good Drink (2:3)
- B. Accomplishments (2:4-6)
- C. The Good Life (2:7-8)

See Ecclesiastes 7:3-6; 12:1.

### II. The Preacher's Conclusion: Meaningless (2:9-11)

- A. Pleasure under the sun has momentary rewards (2:10)
- B. Pleasure under the sun leaves us wanting (2:11)

See Ecclesiastes 1:1-2; 12:13-14

### III. The Preacher Prepares us for Christ

"...it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." (C.S. Lewis)

See Romans 1: 25, Ecclesiastes 3:11b Isaiah 55:1-3, John 7:37-38, and Psalm 16:11

Application Questions:

- 1) What was the main point in this message? Explain it in your own words.
- 2) Why was the Preacher so intent in exposing the futility of pleasure under the sun? Why do you believe God is so concerned for our church to be taught on this as well at this time?
- 3) How does the Preacher prepare us to experience the all-satisfying pleasure of God? Have you personally trusted in His ability to quench your hunger and thirst for lasting pleasure? Why or why not?
- 4) In the end, what will keep you from reaching the same conclusion as the Preacher ("Vainities of vanity, all is vanity.")? What step is God calling you to take to pursue lasting pleasure in Jesus?