

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 **Searching For Wisdom In All Activities Of Men**

The Vanity of Pleasure

(cf. [1 Kings 4:20-28](#))

¹ I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also *was* vanity.

² I said of laughter – "Madness!"; and of mirth, "What does it accomplish?"

³ I searched in my heart *how* to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what *was* good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.

⁴ I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards.

⁵ I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all *kinds* of fruit trees in them.

⁶ I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.

⁷ I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me.

⁸ I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, *and* musical instruments* of all kinds.

⁹ So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.

¹⁰ Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor.

¹¹ Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all *was* vanity and grasping for the wind.
There was no profit under the sun.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure"; but surely, this also *was* vanity.
I said of laughter – "Madness!"; and of mirth, "What does it accomplish?"
I searched in my heart *how* to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what *was* good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives. [[Ecclesiastes 2:1-3](#)]

- ✧ Searching for wisdom, Solomon tried pleasure in mirth, and laughter to see what they accomplish.
- ✧ Guiding his heart with wisdom, he tried to gratify the flesh with wine and folly to see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives.
- ✧ I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all *kinds* of fruit trees in them. I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove.

I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me.

I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, *and musical instruments** of all kinds. [\[Ecclesiastes 2:4-8\]](#)

- ✧ Solomon described all the things he had made in houses and land improvements.
- ✧ He described his possessions of servants, flocks, and herds.
- ✧ He described his accumulation of wealth, silver gold and special treasures of kings and of provinces.
- ✧ His entertainers of singers and musical instruments of all kinds.
- ✧ So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. [\[Ecclesiastes 2:9\]](#)
- ✧ Through it all his wisdom remained with him.
- ✧ Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor.
Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all *was* vanity and grasping for the wind.
There was no profit under the sun. [\[Ecclesiastes 2:10-11\]](#)
- ✧ Solomon tried every pleasure he could find.
- ✧ He found the joy of accomplishment was his reward for all his labor.
- ✧ In the end he found it all to be futile grasping for empty satisfaction with no true benefit.