Ecclesiastes 2

• Review...

o No

to

o The

Purpose...

• The PREACHER [Solomon] - wrote let us know...

Life is

VANITY everything
UNDER the sun
has NO purpose!
Evidence...

- Solomon pointed out people are born and die yet the world just keeps going...
- Like the sun that rises and sets only to rise again...
- Life is a never ending cycle and our lives do NOT really matter...
- We do NOT remember those who came before us and we will be FORGOTTEN!
- o No Answers...
 - The KING had all the resources needed to try and find a solution...
 - The FIRST place he looked was in WISDOM [he had more than any other]
 - But in the end it was like grasping for the WIND...
 - The more Solomon learned the more crazy life seemed and it only brough him more sorrow!

$\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ - Looking for answers ... vs. $\mathbf{1}$ - $\mathbf{11}$

- o 1st Entertainment... vs. 1-2
 - Good times... vs. 1
 - I said in my heart: Come now I will test you with mirth [to see if there is anything good]!
 - But surely this also was vanity!
 - Solomon was determined to see if ANYTHING could give meaning to his life...
 - He said in his HEART [לֵב] go [imperative] and try [piel] having FUN [שָּמָחָה]
 - He would try to be ENTERTAINED to see [קוֹב] if that did any GOOD [טְוֹב]
 - BUT [וְ] the answer was a quick NO it was also VANITY [הֶבֶל]
 - The word AMUSEMENT means to NOT [a] think [muse]
 - We live in a world that is CONSUMED by the desire to NOT think [entertainment]
 - The average person [Philippines] watches over 100 hours of social media every month...
 - But those movies apps restaurants do NOT give our life more meaning!
 - Laughter... vs. 2
 - I said of laughter: Madness! And of mirth: What does it accomplish?
 - To think that LAUGHTER is the meaning of life is CRAZY [הּוֹלֵלָה]
 - Because no matter how much fun we are having what does it really DO [עֲשֶׂה]!
 - I have been guilty of binge watching a show on Netflix...
 - It was enjoyable while it lasted but once it was done I felt EMPTY...
 - The truth was I just wasted HOURS of my life and got NOTHING for it!
- o 2nd Alcohol... vs. 3
 - I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine while guiding my heart with wisdom.
 - 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!
 - Solomon set his HEART [לֵב] to try and FIND [מְשַׁהְ] purpose in WINE...
 - This was the GOOD [מְוֹב] the sons of MEN [אֶדֶב] said he could find UNDER heaven...
 - BUT [וַ] although Solomon was trying to be WISE he instead found [אָהַזּן] FOLLY!
 - The Bible does NOT say we cannot drink it does say it is SIN to be drunk Ephesians 5:18
 - Many people try and live by the POWER of alcohol to get through the day...
 - But the moment they sober up the reality of their poor choice is there to greet them...
 - Because alcohol has no power to change our lives!
- o 3rd Real estate... vs. 4-6
 - 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!
 - Solomon tried to find the answer in Real Estate...
 - He build GREAT [נְדוֹל] houses planted vineyards and orchards filled with ALL [כַּל] fruits...
 - Even building POOLS to store the water for all his TREES!
 - Solomon built a palace called the FOREST of Lebanon I Kings 7:2

- It likely got its name because of the large quantity of trees used in its construction...
- It was 45 meters 23 meters wide and 13 meters high [over 1000 square meters]
- When we walk through nice neighborhoods take note of the houses...
- There are always some being BUILT and the owners fret over every detail...
- But there are others that are abandoned because houses are NOT the answer...
- They are a distraction while they are being built...
- Then they are a frustration because we have to maintain them!
- o 4th Business... vs. 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!
 - Solomon tried his hand at being a businessman...
 - He had a LOT of employees [עֶבֶד] both men and women [even their kids]
 - He had a LOT [רְבָה] of animals both cows and sheep...
 - So that he had MORE possessions that ANYONE [בַּל] that came before him!
 - There is WISDOM in owning your own business...
 - Because when you are the BOSS you get the PROFIT set your own HOURS...
 - But the question becomes what is ENOUGH [Solomon did not know when to stop]
 - Because more employees more stock equals more STRESS!
- o 5th Money... vs. 8
 - I also gathered for myself silver and gold the special treasures of kings and of the provinces!
 - Solomon then tries to find meaning in MONEY...
 - He gathered SILVER and GOLD which is the treasure of KING [מֶלֶדְ] and NATIONS...
 - But MONEY is never an answer we cannot BUY the meaning of life!
 - There is a saying that even the world acknowledges we CANNOT buy happiness...
 - The idea that MONEY is the answer is a devious LIE...
 - Because while money can buy things life is NOT about having a LOT of stuff...
 - The wealthiest people in the world are often the poorest spiritually!
 - Luke 12:15 "Beware! Guard against... greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."
- o 6th The Arts... vs. 8
 - I acquired male and female singers the delights of the sons of men.
 - And musical instruments of all kinds!
 - Solomon also tried MUSIC he trained [נְשָשָה] male and female singers...
 - And he had all kinds of INSTRUMENTS [שָׁדָה] only here in OT [also translated concubines]
 - There are those who look to the ARTS for meaning in life...
 - And the things they make are the DELIGHT of men people LOVE what they create...
 - What they do is a REFLECTION of the amazing creativity of God...
 - But ART is NOT a replacement for God it cannot give us MEANING!
- o 7th Success... vs. 9-10
 - Greater than all... vs. 9
 - So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem.
 - Also my wisdom remained with me!
 - Solomon was GREAT [בַּדוֹל] more so than ALL [בַּל] who came before him...
 - If anyone looked at his life he was the very definition of SUCCESS...
 - He had FUN new how to PARTY [alcohol] had his PROPERTIES and BUSINESSES...
 - He was WEALTHY donated to the ARTS and he was still WISE [הָּכְמָה]
 - Had everything... 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!
- And all of his SUCCESS meant he could get ANYTHING [בָּל] he wanted...
- ANYTHING [כֵּל] his eye saw that it liked he made sure to get it...
- He did not DENY his heart [לֵב] but gave himself EVERYTHING [בָל] he desired...
- And that made him momentarily HAPPY because he knew he has WORKED for it!
- If I were to think of a modern equivalent to Solomon it would be Elon Musk...
- His current net worth [November 2024] is over 18 TRILLION pesos...
- He can literally afford anything he wants there are NO limits!
- We might think having that much money would be great...
- But what it really means is that we have run out of things to give us meaning...
- Once you have EVERYTHING and still are not HAPPY what is next!
- o 8th Grasping for wind... vs. 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!
 - Which is why Solomon looked at his SUCCESS all that he HAD done...
 - And his conclusion was that it was all [בֶּבֶל] VANITY [הֶבֶל]
 - Trying to find MEANING in ANYTHING under the sun [in this life] was like CHASING the WIND!
 - As I go through the exhaustive LIST of things that Solomon tried...
 - I cannot help but think of specific people for each one...
 - I know people who are trying to find meaning in FUN and PARTIES [alcohol]
 - I know people who are chasing after REAL estate caught up in BUSINESSES...
 - I know a LOT of people who think MONEY is the answer!
 - But they are NOT going to find the answer Solomon already tried...
 - They are CHASING the wind and as is always the case they will end up EMPTY handed!
- 2ND WISDOM OR FOLLY... vs. 12-17
 - o 1st Which is better... vs. 12-14
 - The question... vs. 12
 - Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly.
 - For what can the man do who succeeds the king? Only what he has already done!
 - In light of there being NO answers UNDER the sun...
 - Solomon turned to look [רָאָה] at a simple question...
 - Is there any benefit to being WISE [הְּכְמָה] over being CRAZY [הוֹלֵלָה] or a FOOL...
 - FOOL [בְּסִיל] those whose heart does NOT want to learn about God...
 - Because [כִּי] as the wisest KING there was no one better than him to find that ANSWER!
 - Wisdom is better... vs. 13-14
 - Then I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness.
 - The wise mans eyes are in his head but the fool walks in darkness!
 - At first the answer seemed obvious WISDOM is better [יָתַרוֹן] than being FOOLISH...
 - Just as it is better [יִתְרוֹן] to walk in the LIGHT rather than the DARK...
 - The WISE man can see [eyes] where he is going but the FOOL is in the DARK!
 - There is no question that it is BETTER to know the answer...
 - If we KNOW that there is NOTHING in this world that will ever give us PURPOSE...
 - Hopefully we are NOT going to waste our lives chasing after the WIND...
 - Only those who are CRAZY or FOOLS look for answers where there are NONE!
 - o 2nd The same end... vs. 14-17
 - Why be wise... vs. 14-15
 - Yet I myself perceived that the same event happens to them all.
 - So I said in my heart: As it happens to the fool it also happens to me.

- And why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart: This also is vanity!
- BUT [יַן] Solomon also SAW [יַדַע] that the same EVENT happens to EVERYONE [בָּל]
- And if the same event that happens [imperfect] to the FOOL also happens to him...
- The EVENT he was talking about is DEATH everyone DIES...
- He SAID [piel] in his heart [לֵב] what [מָה] is the benefit of being WISE this is also VANITY!
- Forgotten... vs. 16
 - For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever.
 - Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.
 - And how does a wise man die? As the fool!
 - Because [אָין] NO [אָין] one remembers the FOOL [הַכְּסִיל] or the WISE [חֶכָם]
 - And in the days to come EVERYONE [כַּל] will be forgotten [niphal]
 - The WISE and the FOOL both die the same way they are NOT remembered!
- Hating life... vs. 17
 - Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me.
 - For all is vanity and grasping for the wind!
 - Solomon HATED life because [בֵּע] EVIL [בַּע] are the works done under heaven...
 - Because [قِرَا] whether we are WISE and can see or a FOOL and are blind...
 - NOTHING we do here lasts it is all [כָּל] FORGOTTEN...
 - Even being WISE knowing life has no answers is VANITY and grasping for the WIND!
 - The problem with KNOWING life does NOT have the answers...
 - Is that does NOT mean we are looking up to get the solution...
 - If we asked people to raise their hands who thinks the answer is Jesus all would say YES...
 - But at the same time if we were HONEST who is living for Jesus [not everyone]
 - Too many believers HATE life because they are DIVIDED...
 - They KNOW this world does NOT have the answer but they will NOT let go of it...
 - But because they are still holding onto the world Jesus always seems far off!
 - James 1:6 "He who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."
- 3RD HARD WORK... vs. 18-26
 - o 1st Useless money... vs. 18-20
 - Cannot take it with you... vs. 18
 - Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun.
 - Because I must leave it to the man who will come after me!
 - Solomon did not just HATE life he HATED all [כַּל] the work [עַמֵל] he had done...
 - Because he realized when he DIED he would leave all his wealth to another MAN [אָדָם
 - I saw a bumper sticker once he who dies with the most toys wins!
 - That is pretty much the mantra of this age people live to try and get more STUFF...
 - But what is never addressed is what happens when they come to the END of this life...
 - All the STUFF it is all LOST because we CANNOT take it with us!
 - Next generation... vs. 19-20
 - Who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor.
 - In which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.
 - Therefore I turned my heart despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun!
 - Solomon did NOT know [יָדַע] if his children would be WISE [סָכָל] or FOOLS [סָכָל]
 - BUT [יִ] either way they would get EVERYTHING he worked hard for...
 - This was also VANITY and it caused his heart [לֵב] to be very [piel] DEPRESSED [יָאַשׁ]!
 - Rehoboam was NOT very wise son his poor choices led to the DIVIDED kingdom...
 - Because he rejected the counsel of the older [wise men]

- And instead listened to his younger [foolish] friends I Kings 12:8
- The greatest inheritance a father can give to his children is NOT money...
- There are endless examples of FOOLISH kids squandering the wealth of their parents...
- The best gift a dad can give is to teach his children about the LORD!
- Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers... bring up [your kids] in the training and admonition of the Lord."
- 2nd Hard days... vs. 21-23
 - Not earned... vs. 21
 - For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom knowledge and skill.
 - Yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it.
 - This also is vanity and a great evil!
 - Solomon knew a man who was hard WORKING...
 - He was WISE [הָכָמָה] and had KNOWLEDGE [דַּעַת] and was SUCCESSFUL [לָשִׁרוֹן]
 - BUT [י] when he died he would leave all he had to a man who did NOT [לא] work hard...
 - Which was very [בַב] WRONG [רַב] because it made all his hard work MEANINGLESS [הֶבֶּל]!
 - Why work hard... vs. 22-23
 - For what has man for all his labor.
 - And for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun?
 - For all his days are sorrowful and his work burdensome.
 - Even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity!
 - Because [מָה] what [מָה] does man get for all [כָּל] his HARD work UNDER the sun...
 - He works EVERY [כַּל] day in pain suffering at his job...
 - Working so hard he does NOT even LAY down to rest his heart [לֵב] at night...
 - The man literally works himself to DEATH just to give it to someone else VANITY!
 - There is wisdom in working hard but what are we working for...
 - MONEY is NOT the most important thing in this world...
 - No one ever comes to the end of their life and wishes they had more CASH...
 - We need to be careful not to WASTE our time chasing after things that do NOT last!
 - Ephesians 5:16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."
- o 3^{rd} Simple life... vs. 24-26
 - Eat and drink... vs. 24
 - Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink.
 - And that his soul should enjoy good in his labor
 - Therefore since there is NO benefit to working ourselves to DEATH...
 - There is NOTHING [אָין] better [טְוֹב] than to have a SIMPLE life...
 - As long as we have enough to EAT and DRINK let our soul be CONTENT [טְּוֹב]
 - **Hebrews 13:5** "Be content with such things as you have."
 - We are to be CONTENT with whatever we CURRENTLY have...
 - Because God has promised to give us EVERYTHING we NEED **Luke 12:31**
 - Hand of God... vs. 24-26
 - This also I saw was from the hand of God.
 - For who can eat or who can have enjoyment [apart from Him]?
 - For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight.
 - But to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting.
 - That he may give to him who is good before God!
 - Solomon saw [רָאָה] that was the plan [hand] of God for men...
 - Because [בִּי] who can do anything apart [π άρεξ] from the hand of God [אֱלֹהִים]
 - God gives [perfect] to the GOOD [טְוֹב] man wisdom knowledge and joy...
 - BUT [יִ] to the SINNER God lets him gather up riches to give to the GOOD [קוֹב] man!

- Everything we have we received from God so it is not ours to BOAST about...
- Our intellect our abilities our family all were given to us...
- We have nothing that we have not been given so all the credit goes to God!
- **I Corinthians 4:7** "What do you have that God has not given you? If all you have is from God, why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own?"
- Still vanity... vs. 26
 - This also is vanity and grasping for the wind!
 - But lest we think Solomon had found the answer...
 - Just be CONTENT and live a SIMPLE life because this is what God has given to us...
 - This is ALSO [גַב] MEANINGLESS [הֶבֶל] like grasping for the wind...
 - Because a SIMPLE life even a CONTENT one still has NO purpose under the SUN!
 - As Solomon continued his journey the answer still remained allusive...
 - For there is NOTHING under the sun that will ever give us MEANING...
 - The ONLY solution to the question comes from looking up and seeing Jesus!