
Eccl 2:11 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.

Joy #2 is the hunger for a primary relationship with God, reflecting Him in how I relate to people.

Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, I find no pleasure in them!

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Now, all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Joy is found in HUNGERING for a "first thing" relationship with God.

Key: p1: Certainty; Hunger; illegitimate; lesser; inevitable; inward;

Unmet Longings

Re-routing: God's Backroads to Joy —part 2

April 28, 2019

Route to Joy #1: Shattered dreams.

Route to Joy #2: Unmet longings

What is Joy?

Definition #1 of joy: C_____. The certainty of the promise of God's greatest desires being fulfilled in us.

Definition #2 of joy: H_____.

Emptiness #1: Chasing I_____ pleasure.

Emptiness #2: Chasing I_____ desires as the most important ones.

Emptiness #3: The I_____ result of living in a fallen world.

Emptiness #4: When we turn I _____ instead of outward.

The Ecclesiastes-Experience

Ecclesiastes 1:1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: ²Meaningless! Meaningless!"says the Teacher. Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

Ecclesiastes 2:1 I thought in my heart, Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good."

Eccl. 2:1 ...But that also proved to be meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:2 Laughter, I said, is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?"

Pleasure on demand

Ecclesiastes 2:3 I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly--my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.

Ecclesiastes 2:4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards.

⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.

⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.

Money, sex and power

Ecclesiastes 2:7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house....

Eccl. 2:7 ...I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.

Ecclesiastes 2:8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces...

Eccl. 2:8...I acquired men and women singers ...

Eccl. 2:8 ... and a harem as well--the delights of the heart of man.

Emptiness too great for even man's greatest efforts

Eccl. 2:10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired...

Eccl. 2:10 ...I refused my heart no pleasure.

Eccl. 2:10 ...My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.
