

Emptiness of Pleasure and Possessions

Introduction: "Today's world is pleasure-mad. Millions of people will pay almost any amount of money to 'buy experiences' and temporarily _____ the burdens of life" (Wiersbe).

- I. Solomon _____ Life (Eccl. 2:1-11).
- A. Solomon continues to _____ for happiness in life.
 - B. He overindulged in _____ (Heb. 11:25).
 - C. God is not opposed to His people having pleasure, but that they get it from the right places and in the right _____ (Ps. 16:11).
 - D. First, Solomon tried _____.
 - E. Then, he tried to please his senses with _____ tasting (Prov. 20:1).
 - F. Some try building _____ to keep busy and find satisfaction (Lu. 2:16-20).
 - G. Solomon embarked on a huge real estate _____.
 - H. A bigger home, a nice garden, and money will never bring _____ satisfaction (Is. 55:2).
 - I. "The big lie promulgated by the movies, TV, and advertising media is that man can make his own _____ down here without God" (MacDonald).
 - J. Solomon also tried having people _____ him (Mk. 10:43-45; Lu. 9:24-27).
 - K. He tried to please his soul with music, but that did not _____.
 - L. Shopping sprees did not work for this man's searching _____.
 - M. In the end of all this testing, he took internal inventory and came up _____; all that expended time, energy, and money and still unhappy.
 - N. _____ is always the key; overindulgence will bring discontent (Phil. 4:5; Prov. 25:16).
- II. Solomon _____ Life (Eccl. 2:12-23).
- A. Because of all this searching and failing, Solomon became _____.
 - B. Deep down he knew that _____ was better than being a fool, but under the sun, they both end up in the grave.
 - C. Thankfully, in God's will we can _____ life (Ps. 34:12; 1 Pe. 3:10).
 - D. Feeding on worldly pleasures will leave a soul _____ and malnourished.
 - E. It grieved Solomon to leave everything he _____ for to someone else.
- III. Solomon _____ Life (Eccl. 2:24-26)
- A. In the end, Solomon realized that a _____ life is more to be desired (1Tim. 6:8).
 - B. The ability to _____ life is a gift from God (1 Tim. 6:17; Jas. 1:17).
 - C. Realize that you have exactly what God _____ you to have.

Conclusion: "When pleasure alone is the center of life, the result will ultimately be disappointment and emptiness. People are more important than things and thrills. He was the wealthiest and wisest man in the whole world, yet he was unhappy because activity alone does not bring lasting pleasure." (Wiersbe).