

THE ANSWER TO LIFE'S GREATEST QUESTION

Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

Sermon 4

Interrogative: How can I find meaning and satisfaction in life and fill the emptiness in my soul?

Transition: The answer comes in three parts.

I. **You won't find satisfaction in study (2:12-17).**

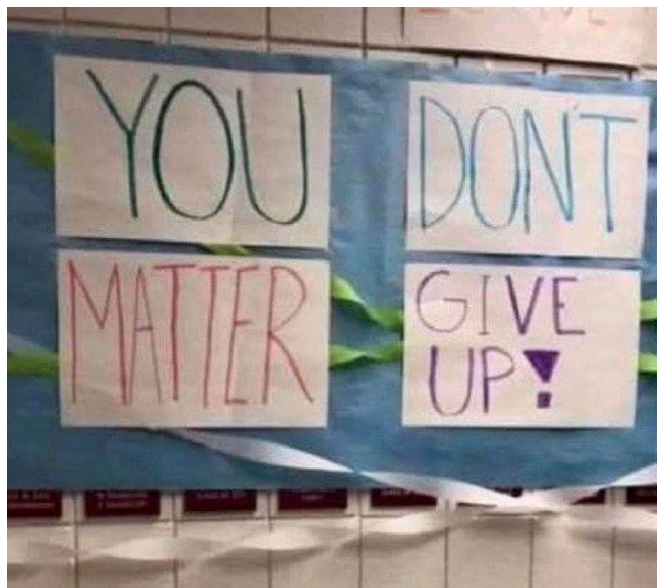
II. **You won't find satisfaction in work (2:18-23).**

- A. **2:18b-19** = ARGUMENT #1—"Life is [not] made _____ by working to provide for one's children, or, more generally, for 'posterity'" (Garrett, NAC, 295).
- B. **2:20** = ARGUMENT #2—Striving to gain satisfaction out of one's _____ will only lead to "_____".
- C. **2:21** = ARGUMENT #3—It's not just wealth, even the _____ and _____ that a person develops by working hard cannot produce lasting fulfillment.
- D. **2:22-23** = ARGUMENT #4—An _____ between work and life will leave a man deeply _____ in his soul.

Transition: After a lifetime of research, Solomon draws this conclusion . . .

III. **You will find satisfaction in Christ alone!**

- A. How can a believer go from hating life to finding deep fulfillment and satisfaction?
- B. **2:24** = ANSWER #1—You will find _____ in the pursuits of life—especially the little things—if you are serving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength rather than self!
- C. **2:24** = ANSWER #2—_____ you have can bring joy because it is a gift "**from the hand of God.**"
- D. **2:25** = ANSWER #3—Everything we do "**apart from him**" will leave us _____!
- E. **2:26** = ANSWER #4—True _____ will come to the one who lives (reads) life the right way, but _____ will come to the one who lives life the wrong way!



Proposition: Pursue Christ rather than pleasure and all pleasure will produce satisfaction!