

I Midweek Bible Study

An Exposition of Qoheleth Success, Wisdom, Death, and the Gift of God Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

- I. **Is Pleasure *the* Advantage? (2:1-11)**
 - A. Pleasure (2:1)
 - B. Laughter (2:2)
 - C. Wine (2:3)
 - D. Achievements (2:4-8)
 - E. Temporary joy is still *hebel* (2:9-11)

- II. **The Great Equalizer: Death (2:12-17)**
 - A. Wisdom and folly (2:12-13)
 - B. The *Hebel* of wisdom (2:14-16)
 - C. Harsh conclusion (2:17)

- III. **Key Passage: The Gift of Life and Labor (2:18-26)**
 - A. Despair (2:18-23)

 - B. Enjoyment of the gifts of God (2:24-26)

“The possibility of enjoyment returns, significantly, only when the quest for profit is given up altogether (2:22-23) and replaced by the notion of gift. Opportunities to eat, drink, and find satisfaction in one’s work, when they come, are not human achievements but divine gifts, and are to be enjoyed as such. They are only palliatives, to be sure, for they too are *hebel*, and will slip from our grip like everything else – but that is no reason to reject them.” (Barry Webb, *Five Festal Garments*)

