

# The Vanity of Pleasure

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

## I. **THE PROMISE OF PLEASURE** (1-11; 1 Cor 15:32)—sensuality, hedonism

### A. **Laughter** (2)—*making fun, looking to comedy to cope, distract*

1. **A spontaneous response** of delight
2. **An intentional distraction** from drudgery, anxiety or sadness
3. **A deliberate response to a perceived threat**
  - **defiant**—mocking, trivializing; express dominance, bravado
  - **avoidant**—laugh it off, pretend it's a joke to avoid a fight
  - **cynical**—passive aggressive response to life, conscious irony

### B. **Alcohol** (3; Ps 104:15; Pr 20:1)—*a drug to manipulate your feelings*

1. **The Connoisseur**—sophisticated, snob
2. **The Alcoholic**—inebriated, drunk

### C. **Projects** (4-6; 1 Cor 15:58)—*building mansions and landscaping; creating and ruling*

1. **For Personal Enjoyment**—my own house and yard
2. **For Community Enjoyment**—something beautiful for everyone to enjoy
3. **For Enduring Fame**—historical monument to his glory

### D. **Slaves** (7a)—*command, manpower to do his bidding; my will be done!*

### E. **Food** (7b; Mat 4:4; Jn 6:35)—*the best and a lot; a sensual pleasure*

1. **The Epicurean**—only the best food
2. **The Glutton**—overindulgence

F. **Money** (8a; Mat 6:24; Tim 6:10)—*silver, gold, financial investments; security, control, power to accomplish your goals*

G. **Music** (8b; 1 Sam 16:23)—*entertainment, soothing, inspiring, etc...*

H. **Sex** (8c)—*a harem of concubines; physical ecstasy, prowess, relational worship*

## II. **THE EMPTINESS OF HEDONISM**—doesn't satisfy, won't last

A. **It is futile to pursue pleasure for its own sake** on our own terms.

B. **There is no satisfaction apart from God.** His gifts were meant to be enjoyed in relationship with Him.

C. **Good things cannot be ultimate things.** They will crumble under the weight of our idolatrous expectation.

## III. **THE WITNESS OF PLEASURE**—calls us to Jesus

A. **God is good.** (Ps 34:8). *We were designed for pleasure. He wants to share His joy with us.*

B. **Pleasure is a reminder of what we lost in Eden.** (Gen 3; Rom 8:18-23). *The world is broken. Something went terribly wrong.*

1. **God created perfection.**

2. **Sin ruined everything.**

3. **The evidence remains.**

C. **Pleasure is a promise of what is yet to come.** (Ps 16:11; Pr 10:28; Mat 25:21) *There is joy now but the best is yet to come.*

Listen to "Voice of a Savior" (Mandisa) at <https://youtu.be/Ye99Cs8y76o>