

2. Or whatever brought his heart joy
 - a. Joy in the Bible many times is associated with something that is good. However it can be connected to things that are not.
 - i. The hypocrites joy is but for a moment (Job 20:5)
 - ii. The rejoicing of a boaster is evil (James 4:16-17)
 - iii. Folly is joy to him that has no wisdom (Proverbs 15:21)
 - b. The heart of man needs to be guarded as well
 - i. Man's heart is said to be evil and wicked (Genesis 6:5; 8:21; Jeremiah 17:9)
 - ii. Therefore it needs to be checked and balanced
 1. By the LORD (Jeremiah 17:10; 1 Samuel 16:7; Psalm 139:23-24)
 2. By His word (Hebrews 4:12-13)
 3. David prayed for Solomon that he would have a perfect heart (1 Chronicles 29:10, 17-20)
 4. David warned Solomon to have a perfect heart before God (1 Chronicles 28:2-10)
 - iii. So that a man might live his life out in joy for the glory of God (Psalm 32:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31)
 - ii. The portion of Solomon's pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2:10b)
 1. Solomon was able to get everything he wanted. None of us can say that.
 2. He withheld nothing from himself; if he wanted it he got it.
 3. Yet at the end of verse 10 Solomon makes the statement, "and this was the portion of all my labour."
 - e. Solomon's survey of all his greatness and wealth (Ecclesiastes 2:11)
 - i. Notice Solomon looked over all that he had. He took account of it.
 - ii. In fact if you look back up to verses 4-8 you see where he had just took note of it all.
 - iii. This reminds us of Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel (Daniel 4:28-33)
 1. Nebuchadnezzar was reminded that it was God that had given him his kingdom (Daniel 4:31)
 2. Notice Nebuchadnezzar's response after his education in the fields (Daniel 4:34-36)
 3. Nebuchadnezzar praised the One that had given him his kingdom (Daniel 4:37)
 - iv. All was vanity and vexation (Ecclesiastes 2:11b)
 1. Apart from God (Remember what Nebuchadnezzar said)
 2. Notice Solomon says, "there was no profit under the sun"
 3. This is true for today (Mark 8:36-37; John 6:63; 1 Corinthians 13:3)

- III. WISDOM AND FOLLY EXAMINED (Ecclesiastes 2:12-23)
 - a. Solomon's declaration of his position (Ecclesiastes 2:12)
 - i. Solomon could not be surpassed in his experience and wisdom (Ecclesiastes 2:12)
 - 1. Solomon had all the wisdom of his time
 - 2. He had given himself to it (Ecclesiastes 1:13,17)
 - 3. God had given him the wisdom that was yet with him (Ecclesiastes 2:9; 1 Kings 4:29-32)
 - ii. No one else could do more than he had (Ecclesiastes 2:12)
 - 1. "What can the man do that cometh after the king?"
 - a. You cannot use the argument that may be you will succeed where Solomon failed. (Ecclesiastes 2:25)
 - b. No matter how hard you work or how wise you are you will not succeed.
 - c. Rehoboam is a good example of this (1 Kings 12:6-11, 16)
 - i. Rehoboam could not exceed his father
 - 1. In power
 - 2. In riches
 - 3. In wisdom
 - ii. In fact he will lose part of the kingdom
 - 2. "Even that which hath already been done."
 - b. Wisdom excelleth folly (Ecclesiastes 2:13)
 - i. As far as light excelleth darkness (Ecclesiastes 2:13a)
 - 1. How much does light excel darkness?
 - a. The word of God is compared to light (Psalm 119:105, 130)
 - b. The path of the just is compared to shining light, the way of the wicked as darkness (Proverbs 4:18-19)
 - c. The Word of God is the Light of the world (John 1:4-9)
 - d. Men love darkness rather than light (John 3:19-21)
 - e. Paul and Barnabas were said to be light of the Gentiles (Acts 13:45-47)
 - f. We are told to put on the armour of light (Romans 13:12)
 - g. The gospel is connected to light (2 Corinthians 4:4, 6)
 - h. Christians are told not to have any fellowship or communion with darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14)
 - i. We are children of light (Ephesians 5:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5)
 - j. In God is no darkness (1 John 1:5)
 - k. We are to walk in the light (1 John 1:7)
 - l. The Lamb is the light of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:23)
 - m. Light and darkness cannot even be compared, light outweighs darkness.

2. In God there is no darkness at all, the Lamb will be the light of the New Jerusalem (there will be no need for the sun). The saved believer has the LORD (the Light of this world) living in them right now (according to Galatians 2:20) and they have been delivered from the power of darkness (Colossians 1:12-14), therefore the believer has no business having fellowship with darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14) and are responsible to tell this world of the one true Light (John 1:9).
- ii. Wisdom and folly compared (Ecclesiastes 2:13a)
 1. How much better is wisdom than folly?
 2. Just like light, wisdom and folly (darkness) cannot even be compared.
 3. Wisdom is better than gold (Proverbs 16:16)
- c. The walk and the sight of the wise and the foolish (Ecclesiastes 2:14)
 - i. The wise man's walk & sight (Ecclesiastes 2:14a)
 1. The wise man sees what's coming
 - a. He hears instruction (Proverbs 1:5)
 - b. He departs from evil (Proverbs 14:16)
 - c. He pacifies anger (Proverbs 16:14)
 - d. He hears reproof (Proverbs 17:10) which is connected to instruction (Proverbs 15:32)
 2. The wise man watches the path that he takes
 - a. To understand his way (Proverbs 14:8)
 - b. To walk circumspect (Ephesians 5:15)
 - ii. The foolish man's walk & sight (Ecclesiastes 2:14b)
 1. The foolish man doesn't understand what's coming
 - a. Because he despises instruction (Proverbs 1:7)
 - b. His mouth is near destruction (Proverbs 10:13-14)
 - c. A foolish woman plucks down her house (Proverbs 14:1)
 - d. Anger is a common practice of a fool (Ecclesiastes 7:9)
 - e. He will not hear instruction, nor will he be reproved (Proverbs 15:5)
 2. The foolish man cannot see his path clearly (Ecclesiastes 2:14b)
 - a. Because he walks in darkness (Ecclesiastes 2:14)
 - b. He has not the truth (Psalm 14:1)
 - c. He is perverse (Proverbs 19:1)
 - d. The fool is connected to other sins, and vices of this world (Titus 3:3)

- d. The end and work of the wise and foolish (Ecclesiastes 2:14c-17)
 - i. "One event happeneth to them all" (Ecclesiastes 2:14)
 - 1. Unless the Lord returns for the church first (and your saved), then you will go by way of the grave. (Psalm 49:10; Ecclesiastes 9:1-3)
 - 2. Both the foolish man and the wise man dies the same way (Ecclesiastes 2:15-16)
 - ii. Why then should there be wisdom? (Ecclesiastes 2:15-16)
 - 1. Solomon asks the question why then should he be wise, if he dies like the fool, and no man will remember him?
 - 2. Remember we have made a distinction between worldly wisdom and Godly wisdom.
 - 3. Yes, worldly wisdom will do you no good for eternity's value, however, Godly wisdom will. (1 Corinthians 2:6, 7; 3:19)
 - a. Good (Godly) wisdom will keep you out of a lot of trouble from this world.
 - b. Wisdom from God and His word can save you (spiritually and physically) (Proverbs 2:6-9; James 1:5)
 - iii. Solomon's hatred for life (Ecclesiastes 2:17)
 - 1. Because he had worked to accomplish something he could not keep (Job 1:21; Proverbs 27:24; Luke 12:15-21; 1 Timothy 6:6-9, esp. verse 7)
 - 2. Here in verse seven it appears that Solomon was just ready to throw in the towel and quit, as if he wished to die.
 - a. The following are seven men in scripture that wished to die, seven men that God used in a special way:
 - i. Job (Job 6:8-9)
 - 1. What a prayer request, Job wanted God to just take him out.
 - 2. Everything had fallen apart for Job; death of his children, his wife told him to curse God, his riches left him, and then his health.
 - 3. Yet God used him after this.
 - a. He sacrifices and prays for his friends (Job 42:8-9)
 - b. God gives Job twice as much as he had before (Job 42:10, 12)
 - ii. Moses (Numbers 11:11-15)
 - 1. Moses asks the Lord if he has found favour with God, that He might kill him.
 - 2. He wants to be taken because he is tired.

- iii. Solomon (Ecclesiastes 2:17)
 - 1. Solomon hates life because it is full of vanity.
 - 2. Therefore he wants to die.
- iv. Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-5)
 - 1. Elijah had just had a great spiritual victory in chapter 18, yet now he wants to die.
 - 2. He had gone against 450 false prophets, and God had given the victory.(1 Kings 18:22)
 - 3. He had just ran 20-25 miles in front of Ahab's chariot and had prayed for rain, after it had not rained for 3 ½ years. (1 Kings 18:41-46)
 - 4. Yet Elijah wanted to die. (1 Kings 19:4)
 - 5. Many times a defeat follows a great victory
 - a. One day everything has went well and the next everything has fallen apart.
 - b. Realize that defeat usually follows a great victory.
 - c. Remember to ask the Lord to give you the grace and strength to go through whatever is awaiting you.
 - d. Remember too, that things are not as great as you think they are on your "best" day, and they are not as bad as you think they are on your "worst" day.
 - 6. Elijah was one of God's greatest prophets, yet he had his defeats.
- v. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:14-18)
 - 1. Have you ever had the thought like Jeremiah had?
 - 2. The people in the Bible are real people.
 - 3. God's word is true, it's His word, if men were writing it; it probably would not show all of man's frailties like it does.
 - 4. You go and study other books and you don't find real people in them. In the word of God you do.

- vi. Jonah (Jonah 4:8)
 - 1. Jonah had a great victory; the people that he had been sent to preach to had listened.
 - 2. However, he was angry because the people had listened, and repented.
 - 3. This shows that even those that follow God have problems.
 - 4. Jonah was angry because things had not gone exactly how he wanted them to go.
 - a. Have you ever been like this?
 - b. Something didn't go exactly how you had it planned in your mind?
 - c. It's pretty petty isn't?
- vii. Paul (Philippians 1:20)
 - 1. Paul wished to be dead, but it was not for all the other reasons of the men from the other books.
 - 2. If it meant living longer in the flesh so that Christ might be magnified, then that is what Paul was ready to do.
 - 3. Paul desired to die so that he could be with the Lord (Philippians 1:22)
 - 4. Paul couldn't decide which he wanted more; to die to be with Christ or to live. (Philippians 1:23)
 - 5. Paul knew that the magnification of Christ was the key to the whole thing. (Philippians 1:24)
 - 6. This is the kind of attitude and devotion we should have for Christ.
- 3. The Bible-believing Christian has an advantage, the work that is done for Christ will last for eternity. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)
 - a. Whether it is through ministering to another saint (believer) (1 Corinthians 16:15-18)
 - b. The studying and ministry of the word of God (Acts 6:4)
 - c. Telling others about Christ through the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)
 - d. Ministering to the Lord (Acts 13:2; 1 Samuel 2:11)
- 4. Solomon found life grievous living it "under the sun."
 - a. The famous missionary C.T. Studd had the following to say about living a life for Christ: "only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last."
 - b. Studd would go on to work in China, India and Africa.

- e. Solomon's hatred and despair of labour (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23)
 - i. Solomon's hatred of his own labour (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19)
 - 1. Solomon had enjoyed the things that he had laboured to have.
 - 2. At the end however he had a hatred for those very things.
 - a. Because he should leave it to the man that would come after him.
 - b. Because who knows whether that man would be wise or foolish? (Ecclesiastes 2:19)
 - i. Solomon's father David said it well in Psalm 39:6. (Psalm 39:6)
 - 1. Men walk in a vain shew. (James 4:14)
 - 2. Men know not who will take care of their riches. (Ecclesiastes 5:12-16)
 - c. Yet that man would rule over what would be left (Ecclesiastes 2:19)
 - i. Rehoboam would be the heir to the throne after Solomon.
 - ii. Solomon at the time of this writing did not know how Rehoboam would turn out (whether he would be a fool or not).
 - 1. Under Rehoboam the kingdom would divide (1 Kings 12:16-20)
 - 2. Judah (The southern kingdom, under Rehoboam) would sacrifice unto strange gods, allow sodomites to live in the land, and commit abominations before God (1 Kings 14:21-24)
 - 3. Judah would also suffer great losses under the leadership of Rehoboam (obviously the loss of the northern kingdom, but also articles of great value). (1 Kings 14:25-28)
 - 4. Both kingdoms would not be reunited
 - 5. Both would go into captivity
 - a. Israel (Northern Kingdom) (2 Kings 18:9-12)
 - b. Judah (Southern Kingdom) (2 Kings 24-25)
 - iii. The example of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-16)
 - 1. While the father had laboured for what he had; in wisdom, knowledge, and good judgment the sons had not. (Luke 15:12, 31)

2. The prodigal son did not work for the inheritance (the portion) (Ecclesiastes 2:21; Luke 15:12)
 3. He obviously did not have the wisdom, knowledge, or proper judgment to use the inheritance wisely (Ecclesiastes 2:21; Luke 15:13)
 4. Notice that the prodigal spent every last dime (Luke 15:13)
 - a. By wasting it
 - b. With riotous living
 5. A good practical lesson seen here is the fact that it is very important that one learns the value of earning what is given to them. (example: a child should understand the value of the inheritance they get, if they don't they will misuse what is entrusted to them.)
 6. You see just from an historical lesson that Rehoboam did not hold the wisdom that his father did in that he forsook the wisdom of the old men in favour of his peers (1 Kings 12:8)
- iv. The example of Eli and his sons (Ecclesiastes 2:19; 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 18, 22-24, 27-34)
1. The child Samuel reiterates the grave message from the Lord to Eli (1 Samuel 3:11-14, 16-18)
 2. Eli's sons die in battle against the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:10-11)
 3. Eli dies when the news is brought to him (1 Samuel 4:15-22)
 4. God's word stood sure that Eli's line would not prosper:
 - a. Fulfilled through Solomon's actions (1 Kings 2:26-27)
 - i. Abiathar thrust out
 - ii. Because of his actions with Adonijah (1 Kings 1:7, 25)
 - b. Zadok the priest placed in his (Abiathar) stead
 - i. Because Zadok had been faithful (1 Kings 1:26-39)

- ii. Solomon's placement of Zadok to replace Abiathar and to fulfill scripture (1 Kings 2:27, 35)
- ii. Solomon's despair of all his labour (Ecclesiastes 2:20-23)
 - 1. Solomon despaired (Ecclesiastes 2:20)
 - a. The word *despair* only occurs 3 x in scripture (1 Samuel 27:11; here in Ecclesiastes 2:20; and 2 Corinthians 4:8). Once it occurs in the past tense in (2 Corinthians 1:8)
 - b. Webster's 1828 has the following on it: "Hopelessness; a hopeless state; a destitution of hope or expectation."
 - c. The world has no hope, yet as Christians we do.
 - i. We have hope in Christ (2 Corinthians 4:5-10)
 - 1. We are dead to the world
 - 2. But alive unto Christ
 - ii. We may be perplexed but not in despair (2 Corinthians 4:8)
 - 1. The world has no hope beyond this life
 - 2. Yet, the Christian does. We can sorrow not because we have hope in the future.
 - 2. Solomon had worked to have the things that he possessed (Ecclesiastes 2:21)
 - a. He had laboured in:
 - i. Wisdom
 - ii. Knowledge
 - iii. Equity
 - b. To leave to one that had not done so (Ecclesiastes 2:21)
 - i. The one that should come after Solomon
 - 1. Had not worked in wisdom, knowledge, and equity.
 - 2. To have the riches of the kingdom.
 - ii. This also is vanity and vexation.
 - 3. In his despair, Solomon asks what the value of labour really is. (Ecclesiastes 2:22-23)
 - a. What hath man of all his labour?
 - i. What is the real value? (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11)
 - ii. What's the purpose?
 - b. And the vexation of his heart?
 - i. Why all the trouble? (Ecclesiastes 4:6)
 - ii. Why all the heartache and no rest in the night? (Ecclesiastes 2:23; 5:12; Philippians 4:6; 1 Timothy 6:17)
 - c. Wherein he hath laboured "under the sun?" (Ecclesiastes 2:22)

- iii. Solomon's conclusion of riches, and wisdom (Ecclesiastes 2:24-26)
 1. That a man should enjoy good in his labour (Ecclesiastes 2:24)
 - a. It is from the hand of God (Ecclesiastes 2:22)
 - b. We should thank God for what He has given us
 - c. Adversity will come, but enjoy the good things God has given to you (Ecclesiastes 5:18-19; 7:14)
 - d. God giveth all good things (Acts 14:17; James 1:17)
 - e. Given so that it might be enjoyed and to bless others (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
 2. No one else could do more than (exceed) Solomon (Ecclesiastes 2:25; 2:1-12; 1 Kings 4:21-24)
 - a. In riches
 - b. In goods
 - c. In wisdom
 3. Things given by God (Ecclesiastes 2:26)
 - a. To a man that is good in the sight of God:
 - i. Wisdom (Proverbs 3:13-18; Ecclesiastes 7:12; James 1:5)
 - ii. Knowledge
 - iii. Joy (John 16:24)
 - b. To the sinner God gives the following:
 - i. Travail
 1. To gather (Job 27:16-17)
 2. To heap up (Proverbs 28:8)
 - ii. So that He might give it to another
 1. One that is good before God
 2. One that is just (Proverbs 13:22)