

## Sermon Reflection:

### **Proclamation of God's Word**

**Text:** Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 5:18-6:6 (ESV)

**Title:** Wisdom of Ecclesiastes: The Vanity of Pleasure **Teacher:** Brown Peterson

2:1 I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" 3 I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. 4 I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. 5 I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. 8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man. 9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. 10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. 11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. ... 5:18 Behold, what I have seen to be good and filling is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. 19 Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. 20 For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart. ... 6:1 There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: 2 a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil. 3 If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. 4 For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. 5 Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. 6 Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place?

**The Gift of Pleasure:**

Pleasure – personal delight in God through his creation and governance resulting in thanksgiving, praise and wonder

What someone does, invents, creates, stories, builds, their hobbies and interests tell us something about who they are. Look around the room and ask someone to tell a story about what they know about someone by:

- Where they live
- The clothes they wear
- What they do for a living
- Their sense of humor
- Beverages they drink
- The art they own
- Music they enjoy

What does it tell us about God that He created or invented pleasure?

- What brings God pleasure?
- What is it that we do that brings God pleasure?
- What of God's creation brings you the greatest pleasure?

**The Poison of Pleasure**

God gives good gifts and we mess them up by trying to enjoy them w/o Him

2 ways to sin in pleasure – Sins to Confess

- Hedonism –
  - Pleasure as God
  - Pleasure as Demand
- Stoicism –
  - Pleasure to be avoided
  - A fear of Pleasure
- Confess your sins of both. Give Examples.

Pleasure offers a Christ of solutions but never delivers.

- What is the difference between the offer of Jesus of pleasure and the flesh's offer of pleasure?
- Why are we so afraid of pleasure? What does that tell us about our view of Holy Spirit?

**The Restoration of True Pleasure – Jesus trains us in pleasure!**

- Seek first King Jesus and all the pleasures of the Kingdom will be added to you.
  - Thankfulness – personal gratitude to God for his goodness is the antidote to the poison of pleasure.
    - All is from God.
    - All Pleasure is from God.
    - Any experience of pleasure is from God.
    - So as your pleasure increases your love for and in God increases.
    - God gets the credit in your worship and wonder in Him
- Dissatisfaction – the work of Holy Spirit to bring us to repentance of “wrong pleasuring”
- God has limited what Satan can offer to only be those things that will never satisfy.