

I. The Test of Pleasure (v 1).**A. Context — *I said in my heart***

- 1) Solomon will put pleasure to the test (1:13, 16).
- 2) *Use*, If we would desire to know something, we must intentionality seek it out.
- 3) *Use*, But we must seek that which honors God (Psa 14:1-2)
- 4) *Use*, We may have comfort from God's Word (Lam 3:25)

B. The Test of Pleasure

- 1) *I will test you* (1 Samuel 17:39)
- 2) *With mirth* — Yet, neither (*a*) in the Lord, nor (*b*) in good things given out of the goodness of the Lord; but, in the the things themselves.
- 3) *Therefore enjoy pleasure*
- 4) Two Points of Remark and Reminder
 - a) Solomon was uniquely qualified to conduct this experiment.
 - b) The whole time, he should have known better (Psa 119:57)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) We need to remember the important distinction between grateful enjoyment and unrelenting pursuit of pleasure.
- 2) We do not need to repeat this test (1 Cor 10:6-7, 11-12)
- 3) But what if I have given way to this same kind of sinful test?

II. The Forms of Pleasure Tested By Solomon (vv 2-8).**A. The Various Forms of Pleasure Put to Test (1 Jn 2:16)**

- 1) Good times (v 2) (Pr 14:13).
- 2) Creature comforts (v 3a) (Pr 20:1; Gen 9:20-21; Psa 104:15).
- 3) Wisdom (v 3b) (Eccl 6:12; Gen 1:31; Jn 17:3).
- 4) Works (vv 4-6)
 - a) Infrastructure
 - b) Technological/Vocational Innovation
 - c) Here we are warned against self-sufficiency and thanklessness to the Lord (Psa 127:1a)
- 5) Possessions (v 7) (1 Kgs 10:8; 1 Tim 6:6)
- 6) Wealth (v 8a) (Mt 6:19-21)

7) Culture (v 8b).**B. The Great Extents of this Test**

- 1) Expense
- 2) Time
- 3) Travel

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Would we be so committed to wisdom and goodness?
 - a) Not to ourselves (Rom 13:13-14)
 - b) That we would go to the Scriptures (Dt 17:8)
- 2) Would we have such a long view of our goals? (Lk 16:8)
- 3) Would we not delight in the great variety of God's grace and kindnesses?

III. The Conclusion of This Test (vv 1-2, 9-11).**A. Self-Assessment (9-10)**

- 1) *I became great and excelled more than all who were before me . . .*
- 2) *Also my wisdom remained with me*
 - a) *Use*, Young Christians, pursue wisdom (not just knowledge) from your youth.
 - b) *Use*, Parents, take comfort that your children who may have *left* the faith cannot *forget* the faith.
- 3) *Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor*
 - a) *Use*, Such should be our diligence, that we may rejoice in all our labours.
 - b) *Use*, Such may be our delight in even the severe providences of God.

B. Result of the Test (1-2, 11) (Gal 6:9; Eccl 1:3)**C. Uses from the Text**

- 1) These things are not sinful, nor unwise, nor unenjoyable in themselves (1 Tim 4:4)
- 2) The pursuit of pleasure cannot satisfy (Gen 3:6).
- 3) The pursuit of pleasure cannot sustain in intensity, in our lives, and through the generations.
- 4) The Gospel and God's pleasures forevermore: (*a*) In union with Christ (Psa 65:4); (*b*) In communion with Christ (Song of Songs 2:3); (*c*) In eternity (Psa 16:11)