



Rock Point Church

Bill Bush | 4.19.26

Big Idea: Pleasure over presence is never enough.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (NLT)

¹ I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.” But I found that this, too, was meaningless. ² So I said, “Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?” ³ After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

⁴ I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶ I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. ⁷ I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire!

⁹ So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. ¹⁰ Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in

hard work, a reward for all my labors. ¹¹ But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

- We use pleasure to escape.
- We use possessions to build an identity.
- We leverage people instead of loving people.
- We follow desire, hoping it will satisfy us.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 (NLT)

²⁴ So I decided there is nothing better than to enjoy food and drink and to find satisfaction in work. Then I realized that these pleasures are from the hand of God. ²⁵ For who can eat or enjoy anything apart from him? ²⁶ God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him. But if a sinner becomes wealthy, God takes the wealth away and gives it to those who please him. This, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

GROUPS QUESTIONS:

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message, and why?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 2:1–11. What stands out to you about what Solomon pursued and what he experienced as a result?
3. Why do you think it is easy to expect too much from things we enjoy?
4. How does the phrase “whatever we run to first is what we trust most” reveal the way we actually live?

5. Read Ecclesiastes 2:3. What do you notice about the way pleasure was used to cope or escape, and why do you think people often turn to escape instead of facing what is going on?
6. Why do you think it is tempting to tie our worth to what we accomplish or have?
7. When you think about your own life, what is something you tend to run to first for comfort, escape, or relief instead of going to God?
8. Where do you see yourself expecting something temporary to give you a sense of identity, security, or satisfaction that it cannot actually provide?
9. As you reflect on this season, what is one specific way you sense God inviting you to choose His presence before pleasure, whether in your time, habits, or other daily decisions?