



Is This It? - Eccl 2

September 27, 2026

Message Recap

Solomon had the resources to test every pleasure his eyes desired. He built houses, planted gardens, gathered wealth, pursued entertainment, and refused himself nothing. He enjoyed each experience in the moment, but when he added it all up, nothing lasting remained. Every thrill paid him once, and then the feeling was gone.

Work and achievement could not become his lasting portion either. Solomon knew everything he built would eventually pass to someone else, and he could not control whether that person would be wise or foolish. His son Rehoboam proved the point: within five years, Solomon's gold was gone and bronze substitutes took its place. Most of us are losing sleep over things a stranger will one day keep.

The turning point comes when Solomon recognizes that enjoyment is **from the hand of God**. The same food, work, and ordinary gifts become good when they are received from Him instead of asked to become Him. Pleasure is temporary and possessions eventually pass away, but God is our portion forever. Everything minus God is nothing, and nothing plus Jesus is Paradise.

Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**

Share one Christmas or birthday present you desperately wanted as a kid. How long did the excitement last...and do you know where it is today?

- **Reflection:**

What part of the message resonated with you the most?

Discussion Questions

1. Solomon said, "I denied myself nothing my eyes desired." What do your eyes most often ask for when you feel tired, stressed, lonely, or empty? What might it look like to tell them no?
2. How can we enjoy God's good gifts without expecting them to provide lasting fulfillment or become our identity?
3. Ecclesiastes 2 repeatedly emphasizes "for me," but the chapter ends by saying enjoyment is "from the hand of God." How does receiving life as a gift from God change the way we approach pleasure, possessions, and work?

4. Solomon was troubled that everything he built would pass to someone else. What are you investing the most energy in right now? What would it mean for you to “send it ahead” by investing more intentionally in people and God’s Kingdom?
5. Why is it sometimes easier to maintain appearances than to admit we are struggling or have drifted from God?

For Additional Study

Luke 12:16–21

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”

Questions:

- What did the rich man believe his possessions could provide for him?
- Where do you see the same assumptions in your own plans or priorities?
- What is one practical way you can become “rich toward God” with your time, abilities, relationships, or finances this week?