

Learning to Enjoy Life

Ecclesiastes 5:18-6:2

Introduction:

Do you really enjoy life?

Why is it so difficult to enjoy life?

The man who would be rich pierces himself through with many heartaches.

1 Timothy 6:10 (ESV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith **and pierced themselves with many pangs.**

1 Timothy 6:10 (NASB95) For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves **with many griefs.**

1 Timothy 6:10 (KJV 1900) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

However, there is the person who the Lord makes rich and he does not add any sorrow with it.

Proverbs 10:22 (ESV) The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

Theme: Learning to enjoy the life that God has given to us.

Before us is a contrast of an enjoyable life to that of a miserable life.

What is before us is prosperity in its joy as opposed to prosperity in its misery

5:18- 22 Addresses prosperity in its joy.

6:1-6 Addresses prosperity in its misery.

Theme: we are to learn to enjoy life as a result of making the most of what God has given to us.

Key Verse: Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting 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.

1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV) As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

I. God gives us life to enjoy

A. It is desirable that we enjoy life

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be **good** and fitting 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.

B. It is appropriate that we enjoy life.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and **fitting** 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.

E. We are to enjoy life's simple pleasures,

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting 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.

C. It is appropriate to enjoy life because life is short.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting 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

D. It is appropriate that we actually enjoy our work.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting 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.

1. We are to enjoy our work although work can be tough.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting 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.

- a. Originally work was to be fulfilling.

Genesis 2:15 (ESV) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

- b. The frustrations of work are a curse

Genesis 3:17 (ESV) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

Genesis 3:18 (ESV) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

Genesis 3:19 (ESV) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

2. What makes life enjoyable is to see work as a means of serving God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting 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.**

- II. The ability to enjoy life is a gift from God.

- A. Previously prosperity was looked at from a perspective under the sun.
 - B. Now life is looked at with God in view in verses 18,19 and 20.

1. God is the one who gives life.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting 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.

2. God is the one who gives prosperity

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (ESV) **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.

3. God is the one who gives us the health and strength to enjoy what we have.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (ESV) 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.

4. God is the one who gives significance to our work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (ESV) 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.**

5. God is the one who gives to us contentment in our present situation.

- a. This person does not mope over nor long for the past.

Ecclesiastes 5:20 (ESV) **For he will not much remember the days of his life** because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

- b. Through trust in God, this person is preoccupied with his present goodness

Ecclesiastes 5:20 (ESV) For he will not much remember the days of his life **because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.**

III. Few things are more pitiful than to be richly blessed and fail to enjoy it.

A. Solomon has seen a senseless waste.

Ecclesiastes 6:1 (ESV) **There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind:**

1. Solomon is not speaking of a moral evil here.
2. Solomon is speaking of that which is senseless.
 - a. It is a real shame.
 - b. It is a crime.

B. The problem that Solomon sees is all too common.

Ecclesiastes 6:1 (ESV) There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, **and it lies heavy on mankind:**

Eccl 6:1 (NASB) there is an evil which I have seen under the sun and **it is prevalent among men--**

C. The problem is then described.

1. The man has everything he could want in life.

Ecclesiastes 6:2 (ESV) **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.

2. However, he does not have control over the things so as to enjoy them.

Ecclesiastes 6:2 (ESV) 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. Rather, someone else ends up enjoying them instead.

Ecclesiastes 6:2 (ESV) 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.

D. The results that follow are twofold.

1. it renders money and ultimately life - meaningless

Ecclesiastes 6:2 (ESV) 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.

2. it is a great source of consternation and unhappiness

Ecclesiastes 6:2 (ESV) 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**.

IV. Conclusion:

A. There is nothing wrong with a desire to enjoy life.

B. The ability to enjoy life is a true blessing from God.

C. Enjoyment consists in knowing that all that we have comes from God.

D. This enables us to rejoice in his goodness and be confident about the future.

E. The accumulation of wealth is no real safeguard against the future.

F. All too many have accrued wealth and honor for the future but are never able to partake of it.