

LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS

IS TRUE HAPPINESS REALLY POSSIBLE?

Ecclesiastes 1-2

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I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I decided to study and to use my wisdom to learn about everything that is done in this life. I learned that it is a very hard thing that God has given us to do. I looked at everything done on earth, and I saw that it is all a waste of time. It is like trying to catch the wind.
Ecclesiastes 1:12-14 ERV

What is the answer in the quest for true happiness?

1. True happiness is not found in wisdom and knowledge.

I decided to learn how wisdom and knowledge are better than thinking foolish thoughts. But I learned that trying to become wise is like trying to catch the wind. With much wisdom comes frustration. The one who gains more wisdom also gains more sorrow. Ecclesiastes 1:17-18 ERV

2. True happiness is not found in fun and games.

I said to myself, "I should have fun--I should enjoy everything as much as I can." But I learned that this is also useless. It is foolish to laugh all the time. Having fun does not do any good. Ecclesiastes 2:1-2 ERV

3. True happiness is not found in drugs and alcohol.

So I decided to fill my body with wine while I filled my mind with wisdom. I tried this foolishness because I wanted to find a way to be happy.
Ecclesiastes 2:3 ERV

4. True happiness is not found in money and possessions.

Also, I collected for myself silver and gold, and the treasure of kings and provinces. Ecclesiastes 2:8

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. Ecclesiastes 5:10

5. True happiness is not found in sex and sexual immorality.

I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines. Ecclesiastes 2:8

6. True happiness is not found in work and achievement.

Then I began doing great things. I built houses, and I planted vineyards for myself. I planted gardens, and I made parks. I planted all kinds of fruit trees. I made pools of water for myself, and I used them to water my growing trees. Ecclesiastes 2:4-6 ERV

So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind. Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity. Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun. Ecclesiastes 2:17-20

7. True happiness is only found in the Lord.

*For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him?
Ecclesiastes 2:25*

How blessed [happy] is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, You will be happy and it will be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine, within your house, your children like olive plants around your table. Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. Psalm 128:1-4

If you want to be happy, start living in the fear of the Lord.