

/ a Study in Ecclesia stes \

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"My drive in life comes from a fear of being mediocre. That is always pushing me. I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being but then I feel I am still mediocre and uninteresting unless I do something else.





Because even though I have become somebody, I still have to prove that I am somebody. My struggle has never ended and I guess it never will."

- Madonna





"I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer."

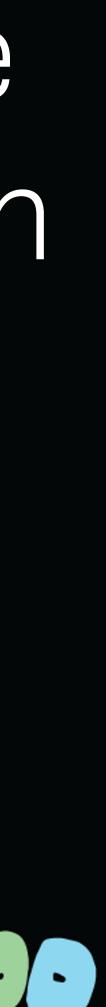
- Jim Carrey





"My question - that which at the age of fifty brought me to the verge of suicide - was the simplest of questions, lying in the soul of every man ... Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?" - Leo Tolstoy





MORE IS MEANINGLESS





Ecclesiastes 2



I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?"

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3





I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly,

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3

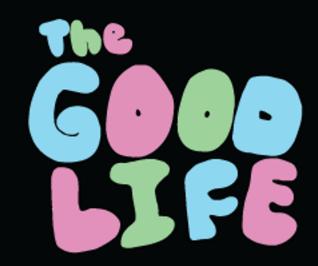


till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

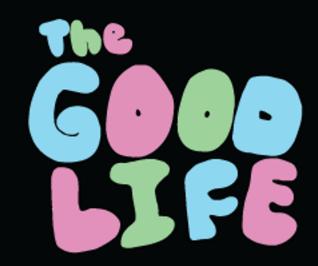
Ecclesiastes 2:1-3



The Experiment:



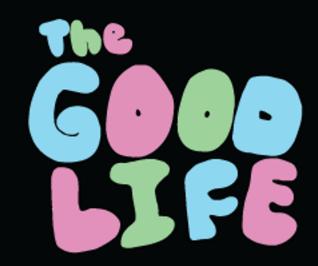
The Experiment: 1. More fun.



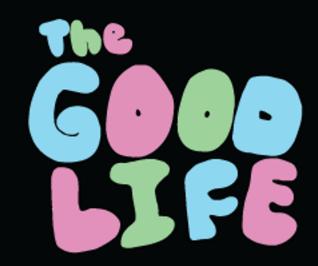
I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. Ecclesiastes 2:4-6



The Experiment: 1. More fun.

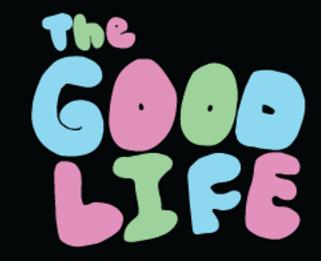


The Experiment: More fun. More success.



I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 2:7-8



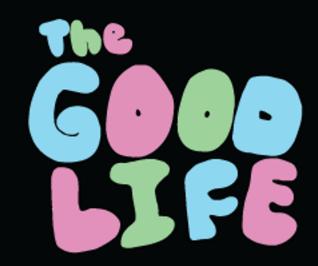
l also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women.

Ecclesiastes 2:7-8

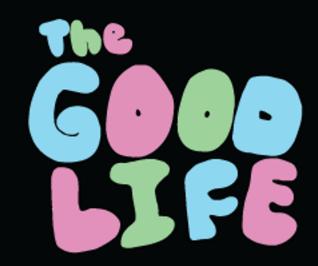




The Experiment: More fun. More success.



The Experiment:1. More fun.2. More success.3. More comfort.

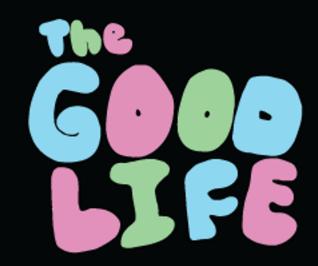


...and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

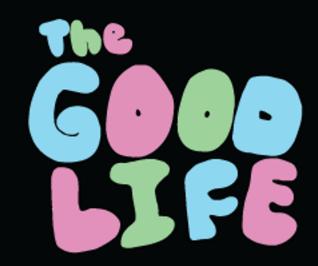
Ecclesiastes 2:8



The Experiment:1. More fun.2. More success.3. More comfort.



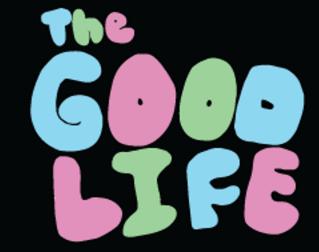
The Experiment: 1. More fun. 2. More success. 3. More comfort. 4. More sex.



So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them.

Ecclesiastes 2:9-10







this was my reward for all my toil.

Ecclesiastes 2:9-10

I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and







So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done.

Ecclesiastes 2:12-13



Then I saw that there is more gain in gain in light than in darkness.

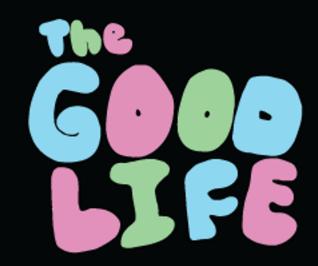
Ecclesiastes 2:12-13

wisdom than in folly, as there is more

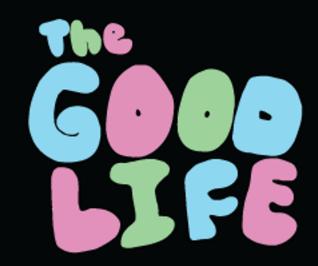




The Experiment: 1. More fun. 2. More success. 3. More comfort. 4. More sex.



The Experiment: 1. More fun. 2. More success. 3. More comfort. 4. More sex. 5. More wisdom.



If just had more

The



So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:17



So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill

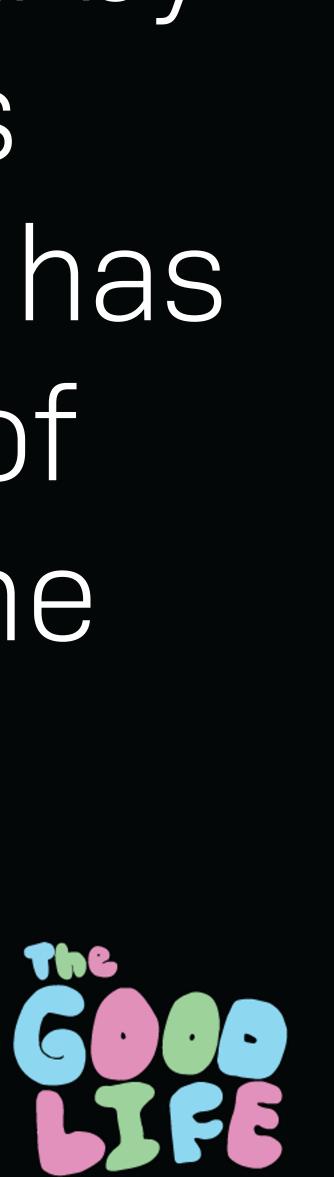
Ecclesiastes 2:20-23





must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? Ecclesiastes 2:20-23





his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:20-23

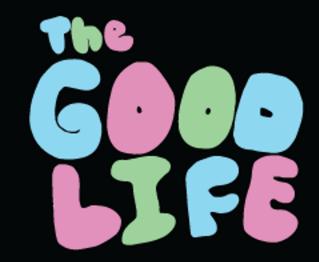
For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night







Death makes us realize how foolish our pursuit of more really is.



3 Invitations:



3 Invitations: 1. Sacred Mundanity

The



I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me... There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. Ecclesiastes 2:18, 24



This also, I saw, is from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 2:18, 24





"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world."

- CS Lewis





3 Invitations: 1. Sacred Mundanity

The



3 Invitations: 1. Sacred Mundanity 2. Sacred Honesty

The



3 Invitations: 1. Sacred Mundanity 2. Sacred Honesty 3. Sacred Joy



...for apart from [God] who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

Ecclesiastes 2:25



