

The  
GOOD  
LIFE  
a Study in Ecclesiastes

“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**

The  
**GOOD**  
**LIFE**

# 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:

1. More fun.
2. 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**



I 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:

1. More fun.
2. 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**



I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

**Ecclesiastes 2:9-10**



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 wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness.

**Ecclesiastes 2:12-13**



# 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 I just had more \_\_\_\_\_ .





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**



For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

**Ecclesiastes 2:20-23**



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



# 3 Invitations:



# 3 Invitations:

## 1. Sacred Mundanity



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



# 3 Invitations:

1. Sacred Mundanity
2. Sacred Honesty

# 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**



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