

For Further Study...

- "The Message" by Eugene Peterson
 "Desiring God" by John Piper
 "Pure Pleasure" by Gary Thomas

"NON-PROFIT"
 Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26

1. Wisdom won't produce a profit (12-18)**2. Pleasures won't last (1-11)**

- a. Folly doesn't figure (2-3)
- b. Projects don't satisfy (4-6)
- c. Possessions don't pay off (7-10)
- d. Life is not for profit (11-23)*

3. Accept life as it is (24-26)***Small Group Questions:***

1. What are you experimenting with in life? Which of Solomon's experiments would you have expected to pay off?
2. Which would be most tempting for you to pursue?
3. In the first two chapters, Solomon has contrasted two words: *hebel* (*vaporous, empty, meaningless*) and *ytiron* (*profit, gain, margin*). What does the contrast of these two words teach us about life in the first two chapters?
4. Compare the first two chapters of Ecclesiastes with Proverbs 8. Does Solomon contradict himself as he reflects on the value of wisdom? How should we understand the value of wisdom in our lives?
5. The book of Philippians is known to be a book of joy. The nickname for Ecclesiastes is the Philippians of the Old Testament. Would you agree with this description? Why or why not? What if anything are you learning about the way to approach life?