

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

The Pursuit of Happiness

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Introduction

As King Solomon reflected back over his life, he saw that there was nothing to be gained in the pursuit of pleasure and knowledge as ends in themselves. He came to the same conclusion about work. Solomon saw that while it was good for mankind to work, work too was meaningless if it was not seen in the framework of pleasing God.

Bible Passage

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26

Discussion

1. Read Genesis 1:26-30 and Genesis 2:15. What was God's purpose in creating work? How does this apply to us today?
2. How would you define work? Does this impact on your attitude towards what you do each day?
3. What can be the consequences when work becomes out of balance in someone's life? Too much? Not enough?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-23 and Proverbs 13:22. Is it good to build an inheritance for others? What can be the benefits? What can be the risk?

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5. Read Ecclesiastes 2:24-26. What does Solomon conclude about working? Why does he come to this conclusion?
6. Read Colossians 3:23. How might this verse impact how you see work? What might you need to change to see work from God's perspective?

Respond

God created work – both paid employment and everyday chores – for every person to participate in, as a means to find fulfillment and purpose and to contribute to our own needs. When we see work as a gift from God that can be used to glorify Him, it can give purpose, meaning and a sense of satisfaction to our lives. How do you see your work at the moment? Do you need to see it from a different perspective?