

Respectable Sins

Experience

Gluttony

Respectable Sins

Ecclesiastes 2

The Test: V1

Ecclesiastes 2:3b

I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

Ecclesiastes 2

Anything: V2-11

Ecclesiastes 2:4-9

⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. ⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

*¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.*

*My heart took delight in all my labour,
and this was the reward for all my toil.*

*¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.*

Ecclesiastes 2

Good Things: V12-16

Ecclesiastes 2:15-16

Then I said to myself,

*“The fate of the fool will overtake me also.
What then do I gain by being wise?”*

I said to myself,

“This too is meaningless.”

*¹⁶ For the wise, like the fool, will not be long remembered;
the days have already come when both have been
forgotten.*

Like the fool, the wise too must die!

Ecclesiastes 2

Work: V17-23

Ecclesiastes 2:21-23

²¹ For a person may labour with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labour under the sun? ²³ All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2

Resolve: V24-26

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?

Ecclesiastes 2:26

To the person who pleases God, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

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