

LABOR DAY 2017

Finding joy on the job!

Ecclesiastes 2 / September 3, 2017 / Pastor Bill Russell

🌀 **THE QUESTION:** How you feel about work and more specifically your job?

🌀 **THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES:**

☀️ Solomon's life story

TODAY'S BIG IDEA

THE WISEST AND WEALTHIEST MAN TO EVER LIVE, KING SOLOMON, CAN TEACH US HOW TO FIND THE JOY IN OUR WORK, BUT NOT BECAUSE HE DID. INSTEAD SPEAKING THROUGH HIS FAILURES HE CAN TELL US HOW TO APPROACH AND HOW NOT TO APPROACH OUR WORK. YOU SEE, THERE IS A JOY TO BE FOUND IN OUR WORK, EVEN THOUGH SOLOMON STRUGGLED TO FIND HIS.

Ecclesiastes 2:18 ESV

I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun

1. **DON'T WORK TO _____ (OR EVEN _____.) v1**

I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself."

But behold, this also was vanity. v1

🎤 _____ much does not necessarily equal _____. **v4-6 [Eccl 3:9-11]**

🎤 _____ much never equals _____. **v7-8**

*Sometimes
less is more!*

🎤 _____ from many does not equal _____. **v9-11**

• **Jesus Teaching: Luke 12:15**

2. LEARN TO ENJOY OUR _____. V18-23

*For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation.
Even in the night his heart does not rest. v23*

➤➤ There is a relationship between _____ and _____ that is essential.

➤➤ We need to learn the _____ of rest from Jesus. **[Gen 2:1-3]**

A. The _____ as He broke up His work into 6 days.

B. The _____ as He rested on the 7th day.

➤➤ Resting allows time for _____

➤➤ Resting allows time for _____ **[v21]**

➤➤ Rest should lead into _____

A. **OT:** We Work to _____!

B. **NT:** We Work from our _____! **[John 19:30, Matt 11:28-30]**

*We need to reflect His glory **IN** our work
so we can then reflect **ON** His Glory after our work.*

3. WORK FOR GOD'S _____ NOT OUR _____ V24-26 [1 Cor 10:31]

For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy v26

⚙ Our greatest _____ and highest _____ is found in bringing God glory.

⚙ _____ can bring a deeper joy and greater satisfaction to your work. **[Col 3:22-24]**

⚙ God can bring an _____ to our work. **[Rev 4:13]**

Application & Transformation

What verse or thought spoke to me the most this morning?

Could I do a better job resting, reflecting and worshipping? In what ways?

What does "working from your rest" mean to you?

In what way can I express more of God's Glory on the job!

Ecclesiastes 2 ESV

1 I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. **2** I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" **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, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life.

4 I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. **5** I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. **6** I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees.

7 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. **8** I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. **10** And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. 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. **11** Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

18 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, **19** and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. **20** So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, **21** because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. **22** What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? **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.

24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, **25** for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? **26** For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 3:9-11 ESV

What gain has the worker from his toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Luke 12:15 ESV

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Genesis 2:1-3 ESV

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

John 19:30 ESV

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:23-24 ESV

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Revelations 4:13 ESV

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

*If you want to find the Joy in your Job,
find the Deeper Meaning in the Higher Purpose.*