

INTRODUCTION

- * In our study of the book of Ecclesiastes, we have considered Solomon's background, his misguided philosophy of life, and ... last week ... his decision to purposefully consult with his own heart and trouble his own heart. In those studies, we then considered the Biblical exhortation that is in response to each of these - the need to Remember Your Creator in the Days of your Youth, the need to Remember Your Creator in Your Philosophy of Life, and the need to Remember Your Creator in Your Heart.
- * Last week, we specifically considered the need to set your heart on God and to love Him with ALL of your heart. Those who do so will subsequently see the need to set their heart on God's Word - memorizing it, meditating on it, and modeling it in their lives.
- * As we establish ourselves in a Biblical philosophy and set our hearts upon God, it will inspire us to pursue avenues of pleasure that are consistent with those other choices.
- * Sadly, we see in Solomon's life that this progression of thought is also true in those who have an unbiblical philosophy of life and choose to set their heart upon themselves. The avenues of pleasure that they choose will be toward the pursuit of self-pleasure.
- * As Americans we should be very familiar with our topic today, for the Declaration of Independence declares that there are three unalienable rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That last term is our focus today - our happiness. What makes us happy? What pleases us, or brings us pleasure?

INSTRUCTION

I. SOLOMON'S UNBIBLICAL P _____

A. He Sought to G _____

1. THE DIVISION BETWEEN SERVING THE FLESH AND FOLLOWING BIBLICAL WISDOM (cf. Proverbs 15:21; 21:15)
2. THE EXAMPLE OF WINE (cf. Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35)

B. He Sought to L _____

II. THE BIBLICAL U _____

A. Understanding the T _____

1. THE DEFINITION OF THE WORDS
 - * Simkhah (H8057) - blithesomeness or glee (religious or festival); joy, mirth, pleasure, rejoicing (*from H8055*)
 - * Sason (H8342) - to be bright, cheerful; gladness (*from H7797*) ... *not used in Proverbs or Ecclesiastes* (cf. *Dty* 28:63; 30:9)
 - * Khephets (H2656) - a longing or desire
 - * Tob (H2896) - good
2. THE USAGE OF THE WORDS
 - * cf. Leviticus 23:40; Numbers 10:10; Deuteronomy 12:7,12,18; 14:26; 16:11,14; 27:7; 1 Chron 15:16, 25; 16:10,31; 29:9,17,22
 - * cf. Esther 8:15-17; Psalm 40:16; 68:3; Isaiah 22:1-2,12-14
 - * cf. Proverbs 21:15,17

B. Understanding the E _____ (cf. Luke 10:17,20; 15:4-10; 15:22-25,32; John 15:7-11; 16:20-24)

C. Understanding the W _____ (cf. Romans 7:14-8:17; Galatians 5:13-24; Matthew 26:41)

D. Understanding the C _____

1. SOME BIBLICAL CONSIDERATIONS (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 10:23-31; Romans 14: 13-23; Galatians 5:13-14)
2. A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE ... The Use of Wine (cf. Lev 10:8-11; Prov 31:4-5; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Peter 2:9)

INTROSPECTION

- * What is your criteria for your pursuit of pleasure and happiness?
- * Is Remembering, and Glorifying, Your Creator God at the top of that list?
- * Are there activities in your life that need to be adjusted or jettisoned, in order to truly be following your Master?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How are we influenced by our culture in our pursuit of pleasure? What additional verses can we use to help guide us in our decision making?