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ILL- Did you hear about the college students who wanted to form a new organization on their campus? They called it the "Apathy Club"? Their "Apathy Club" wasn't going to be like any other student group. Where most organizations have a purpose or goal -- or some common interest to unify and motivate them -- this club was advertised as "believing in nothing, pursuing nothing." They simply didn't care about anything, and they were going to demonstrate their apathy in an organized fashion!

Just one problem...the self-appointed officers of the Apathy Club advertised the first meeting -- and not a single person showed up -- because anybody who might have been interested didn't care enough to attend.

The dictionary defines “apathy” as "a lack of feeling or emotion". Solomon was full of apathy.
The remaining portion of chapter 2 is nothing but gloom and doom. However, there is a ray of light at the end of the chapter. Solomon’s quest to find meaning and happiness to life seems to have come to a screeching halt. Solomon seems to asking the question, *what’s the use anyway? We’re all going to die! Does anything matter?*

The first part of the chapter we saw:

**I. THE KINGS DELUSION- (Chp. 2: 1-11)**
Solomon set out on a quest to find what life was all about. He wanted to find out *what made life tick!* He traveled down many roads searching for the answer to life. Solomon found *dead ends* at the end of each road.

A. **HE SOUGHT OUT LAUGHTER**- Surely the answer to life is just have a good time and laugh at everything!

1. **HE TRIED AMUSEMENT**- He found that this only brought temporary satisfaction. Amusement only allows a temporary escape.

2. **HE TRIED ALCOHOL**- He saw what many people see today, alcohol will drive you to a drunken stupor. No one ever starts out to be an alcoholic. No one ever takes their first drink thinking it will *dominate and destroy* their lives.

B. **HE SOUGHT OUT LABOR**- Solomon found that labor also left you feeling empty and weary.

C. **HE SOUGHT OUT LUST**- The definition of lust is an “intense or unrestrained craving. Lust is an overwhelming desire. Solomon said, *whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them.* (2:10) But even in this, he found it did not satisfy!

D. **HE SOUGHT OUT LUXURY**- Maybe the way to go was in style! *Go Big or Go Home!* That could have been Solomon’s philosophy!

**II. THE KINGS CONCLUSION- (Chp. 2:12-26)**
Ecclesiastes 2:12  
*And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly:* (I turned myself to behold, means “I considered things from another viewpoint.”) Solomon tried to look at life from every angle. Nothing seemed to make any sense!

A. **HE SAW THE BITTER TRUTH**- (Vs. 11-23)
1. WHAT SOLOMON FOUND- Ecclesiastes 2:12  
12 And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done.  
(Solomon found that everything was useless. Solomon saw there was nothing the man after him could do that he hasn’t already done!)

a. Solomon looked on his WISDOM- he found that in wisdom there is much grief! (Chp. 1:18)

b. Solomon looked on his WEALTH-

2. WHAT SOLOMON FEARED- Ecclesiastes 2:14-16  
14 The wise man’s eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.  
15 Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.  
16 For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

The one thing that Solomon feared was DEATH. He saw himself getting closer and closer to death and knew that nothing could stop him. And after he died, no one would even care what he did or accomplished. Solomon was sick of life but didn’t want to die!

He would have agreed with the French humanist Voltaire who said: “As aggravating as life is, living beats dying any day!”

Several men in the Bible had this dilemma.

1- JOB was sick of life and wanted to die.  
Job 3:21 Which long for death, but it cometh not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures;

2- MOSES wanted to die.  
Numbers 11:15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me. I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

3- JONAH was tired of living and wanted to die.  
Jonah 4:3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. (Jonah said, I can’t take it anymore! Just kill me God!)

ALL of these men finally changed their minds! As Christians we should love life! We should be thankful for the gift of life.

1 Peter 3:10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:
1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

3. WHAT SOLOMON FELT- (Solomon had no reservations about letting us know how he felt!)

a. SOLOMON FELT HIS WORK WAS IN VAIN- 17Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit. 18Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: (Poor Solomon felt that all his labor was in vain! It depends on what he built upon.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 11For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. 14If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

I wonder if Solomon had Labored on the wrong foundation!

b. SOLOMON FELT HIS WEALTH WAS IN VAIN- 18Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me. 19And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have showed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity. 20Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun.

(Here in the fourth quarter of Solomon’s life, he was worried about his money! Worried if the man after him would appreciate it! Worried if the man after him would abuse it!)

Not only did Solomon hate life, but he hated the wealth he had accumulated. Remember, Solomon was born wealthy and great wealth came to him because he was king.

He gave three reasons why he was disgusted with wealth!

#1- “YOU CAN’T KEEP IT” Vs. 18= The day would come when Solomon would die and leave it ALL to his successor.
ILL- When Bill Gates, the Multi-Billionaire dies, do you know how much money he is going to leave behind? ALL of it!

1 Timothy 6:7 *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

**Money** is a medium of exchange! Unless it is spent it can do little for you! You can’t eat it! But you can use it to buy food. It will not keep you warm. But you can use it to buy clothes. It cannot carry anywhere. But you can buy a tank of gas or a ticket to take you somewhere!

ILL-The Wall Street Journal called money “The universal provider of everything except happiness, and The universal passport to everywhere except Heaven.”

#1- You Cannot Keep Money!

#2- YOU CANNOT PROTECT IT! (Vs. 19-20) It’s bad enough that we must leave our money behind, but even worst that we might leave behind to someone who will waste it!

1 Timothy 6:9-10 *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.* 10*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

#3- YOU CANNOT ENJOY IT LIKE YOU SHOULD- (Vs. 21-23) If all we do is think about our wealth and worry about what’s going to happen to it when we’re gone, it will make our lives miserable!

Here is what Solomon found. Vs. 21= *We do all the hard work and leave behind to someone who will squander it when we are gone!* This just didn’t seem fair to Solomon.

So what's the answer?

**B. HE SAW THE BETTER TRUTH- Vs. 24=** Finally Solomon began to see a little light in his dark tunnel of life under the sun!

Ecclesiastes 2:24 *There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour.* This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

Solomon is **not advocating** Eat Drink and be Merry for tomorrow we all die! **Rather** he is saying, Thank God for WHAT you have and ENJOY IT!
1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Conclusion-
If you read the remainder of the chapter, Solomon is saying, “Enjoy Life and be Thankful to God!”

Solomon is taking a look at life and death... under the sun. It's only when he begins to lift his eyes beyond the Sun that he realizes God has a bigger purpose!

As Church Colson says, “Life isn’t a book. Life isn’t logical, or sensible or orderly. Life is a mess most of the time. And Life must be lived in the midst of the mess.”

It’s up to us to live it--- and be satisfied!