

## THE FRANTIC SEARCH OF PLEASURE

The Hebrew word for pleasure is simechah. It is normally translated “**rejoice**” or “emotional joy from some occasion”. It is used three times in our lesson text (Eccl.2:1, 2, 10).

The Septuagint translated it into the Greek as euprosune with a similar meaning.

The KJ translated it mirth and added this phrase to explain it “Therefore enjoy pleasure” (Eccl.2:1).

The NAS and NIV translated it pleasure as the source of rejoicing or emotional joy.

All of the English translations came to the same conclusion of simechah, i.e. “when pleasure is anticipated to bring satisfaction, enjoyment and happiness to one’s life”.

**This lesson will study four aspects of Solomon’s Frantic Search of Pleasure as a reversionistic believer (Backslider) (Prov.14:14)**

**1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following five homiletical points of Solomon’s Frantic Search of Pleasure.**

- **Thinking** (Eccl.2:1a) OMCD thinking of pleasure as a source of happiness (Eph.4:19-24).
- **Tempt** (Eccl.2:1b) Tempting self with worldly pleasure (1 John 2:15-17).
- § **Test** (Eccl.2:2-9) Two areas: wine and the mind (vs.2-3) and 9 categories of great achievements and wisdom (vs.4-9)
- **Toxic** (Eccl.2:10) Self-indulgent and destructive behavior (Luke 15:13-17).
- **Testimony** (Eccl.2:11) Vanity (meaningless) and chasing after the wind and NOTHING GAINED UNDER THE SUN.

**2. Solomon decided to explore worldly pleasure without any restrictions placed on him by God’s Word.**

The only way a believer can do this is known as “backsliding” or “reversionism” [reverting back to a former manner of life].

- It starts with either **primary** [forsake bible study] or **secondary negative volition** [rejecting application of Word of God].
- It was **secondary negative volition** for Solomon. He shut down to truth of bible doctrine and opened up to cosmos diabolicus thinking.
  - “And Solomon did what was **evil** in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father had done.” (1 Kings 11:6, 4; 1 Cor.7:35)

This happened to Peter after following Jesus for three years (Matt.16:21-23), but he recovered (Matt.26:75), Unfortunately Solomon didn’t.

Solomon got caught in the **snare of Devil** and **didn’t come to his senses** and escape like the prodigal son (Luke 15; 2 Tim.2:25-26). We must be aware and vigil regarding the schemes of the Devil (2 Cor.2:11; Eph.6:11).

### 3. Eve tried the same thing with the same result as Solomon.

(Gen.3:13) “Then the Lord said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ and the woman said, ‘the serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”

I mention Eve because it shows how old the Devil’s schemes and snares are in the world and that they are set for believers (1 Pet.5:8; Rev.20:2).

- **What was the Devil’s snare?** It was to get Eve to turn her heart volitionally away from the revealed Truth of God’s Word (Gen.3:1-6)
- **“By his craftiness,** your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” (2 Cor.11:3; James 4:7)

He led her astray to a place of double-mindedness and then to the snare of doing the Devil’s will. (James 1:8) “A double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

It becomes more difficult to escape the devil’s snare once you are doubled-minded, but it is not impossible (Luke 15) [prodigal son] **“But when he came to his senses.” (Lk.15:17)** “And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive to do his will.’ (2 Tim.2:26)

### 4. Because of his reversionistic frantic search of pleasure, Solomon became a friend of the world rather than of God.

(Jms 4:4) “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility towards God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

I know it was hard for Peter to acknowledge at the time of his reversionism that he was an enemy of Christ (Matt.16:21-23). It was only later when he was willing to acknowledge his sin and that he had been caught in the snare of the devil “to do his will.” (2 Tim.2:16; 1 John 5:4)

The Devil’s intention is to separate us from the word of God as the working object of our faith.

This lesson should have closed with Solomon a friend and not enemy of God.

(Jms 2:23) “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,’ and he was called **the friend of God.**”

(1 Kings 4:29-31a) “Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore. And Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men.”

#### **At one time, he was wiser than all men.**

(Prov.1:7) “The fear of the lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

(Proverbs 3:5) “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”

(Proverbs 3:7) “And do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”

(Prov. 21:1) “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases.” [NIV]

**By his own words, he is a fool - “Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.” (Eccl.2:11)**