

“Enjoying Life - Ecclesiastes”

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(outline from Ecclesiastes: Total Life, by Walter C. Kaiser)

- A. Enjoying Life as a Gift from God (1.1-2.26)
 - 1. The Restlessness of Life Illustrated (1.4-11)
 - 2. The Pleasures of Life Tested (1.12-2.11)
 - 3. The Purposes of Life Examined (2.12-23)
 - 4. **Conclusion (2.24-26)**

- B. Understanding the All-Encompassing Plan of God (3.1-5.20)
 - 1. The Principle: God has a plan that embraces every man and woman and all their actions at all times (3.1-15)
 - 2. The Facts: The anomalies and apparent contradictions in this thesis are examined and reflected upon (3.16-4.16)
 - 3. The Implications: Certain cautions and warnings must be raised lest a hasty calculation lead men and women to deny the reality and existence of God’s providence and plan (5.1-17)
 - 4. **Conclusion (5.18-20)**

- C. Explaining and Applying the Plan of God (6.1-8.15)
 - 1. Proper evaluation of a man’s outward fortunes helps to explain the apparent inequalities in divine providence (6.1-7.15)
 - 2. Proper evaluation of a man’s character helps to explain the apparent inequalities in divine providence (7.16-29)
 - 3. The removal of a large portion of the apparent inequalities in divine providence comes from righteous government (8.1-14)
 - 4. **Conclusion (8.15)**

- D. Removing Discouragements and Applying God’s Plan to the Lives of Believers (8.16-12.14)
 - 1. The remaining mystery of this subject must not diminish human joy (8.16-9.9)
 - 2. The remaining mystery of this subject must not prevent us from working with all our might (9.10-11.6)
 - 3. The daily reminder of our imminent death and the prospect of facing our Creator and Judge should infect all our God-given joy and activity (11.7-12.8)
 - 4. **Conclusion (12.9-14)**

Pleasure Principle # 1: **Life’s greatest pleasure comes only from obedience to God and from nothing else.**

Pleasure Principle # 2: **Life’s greatest pleasure comes only from obedience to God alone and from no idol, not even man’s first (and last) idol – himself.**