

# CHAPTER 1:12-2:11

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## Lesson 3

### KEY VERSE(S)—

### OUTLINE—

- I. **OBSERVATION:** Search for Meaning (1:12-2:23)
  - A. Conclusion Of His Search (1:12-15)
  - B. Objects of His Search (1:16-2:23)
    1. Knowledge and Worldly Wisdom (1:16-18)
    2. Pleasure and Mirth (2:1-3)
    3. Wealth and Accomplishments (2:4-9)
    4. Everything Man Desires (2:10-11)
    5. Inequity of Life (2:12-17)
    6. Labor and Toil (2:18-23)
- II. **INSTRUCTION:** Enjoy Good in One's Labor (2:24-26)

### KEY WORDS (Themes)—

### SUMMARY—

The Preacher sets out on a search for meaning and purpose in life. He is in a unique position which allows him to test all those things for which men yearn when searching for satisfaction. It is a frustrating and exasperating task because the search is vain. The Preacher begins his discussion, about all the objects of man's quest for meaning, with his conclusion (1:12-15).

He then summarizes the futility of each of these things that men pursue. Knowledge and worldly wisdom are vain because their acquisition results in greater grief and sorrow because of our inability to do anything about many of the things we learn (1:16-18). Pleasure and mirth are vain because of their inability to positively accomplish anything. They are merely escapes from problems, not solutions (2:1-3).

Wealth and accomplishments are vain because they are "*grasping for wind*"—when we catch the wind in our grasp, we open our hand and have nothing (2:4-9). He withheld nothing from himself in his quest, and nothing was withheld from him (2:10). His conclusion was that there was no profit to any of them (2:11).

### QUESTIONS—

- 1) *Summarize this passage in one sentence.*
- 2) *Why is the search for worldly wisdom an endless circle (1:13; 8:16-17)?*
- 3) *Why is the pursuit of knowledge vain?*
  - *verse 13—*
  - *verse 15—*
  - *verse 18—*

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- 4) Explain the phrase “grasping for wind”.
  - 5) What was the purpose of the Preacher’s quest (2:3)?
  - 6) What remained with the Preacher throughout all of these things he pursued (2:3,9)? Why is that significant?
  - 7) What do we need to realize about the Preacher before we start thinking that he never experienced the kind of things we do, as we search for meaning (2:10-11)?
  - 8) In which of these things have you searched for fulfillment?

**ASSIGNMENT—**

There are four paths that men choose when they are looking for happiness that can only be found in this world. In the first column identify the path which the Preacher mentions. Then in the second column record the result of his quest.

	<b>Path Men Follow To Happiness</b>	<b>Final Result Of The Quest</b>	
<b>1:12-18</b>			<b>1:16-18</b>
<b>2:1-11</b>			<b>2:10-11</b>
<b>4:13-16</b>			<b>4:15-16</b>
<b>5:10-16</b>			<b>5:10,15-16</b>

**READING SCHEDULE—**

Read this passage every day before the upcoming class (check the box after each day that you read the passage)

Sunday   
  Monday   
  Tuesday   
  Wednesday   
  Thursday   
  Friday   
  Saturday