



***Ecclesiastes 2***

## **Ecclesiastes 2**

**1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.**

**2 I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?**

**3 I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.**

## **Ecclesiastes 2 - continued**

**4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:**

**5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:**

**6 I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:**

**7 I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:**

**8 I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.**

## **Ecclesiastes 2 - continued**

**9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.**

**10 And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.**

**11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.**

## **Ecclesiastes 2 - continued**

**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.**

**13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.**

**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.**

## **Ecclesiastes 2 - continued**

**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.**

## **Ecclesiastes 2 - continued**

**17 Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.**

**18 Yea, 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.**

**19 And 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 shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.**

## **Ecclesiastes 2 - continued**

**20 Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun.**

**21 For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil.**

**22 For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?**

**23 For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.**

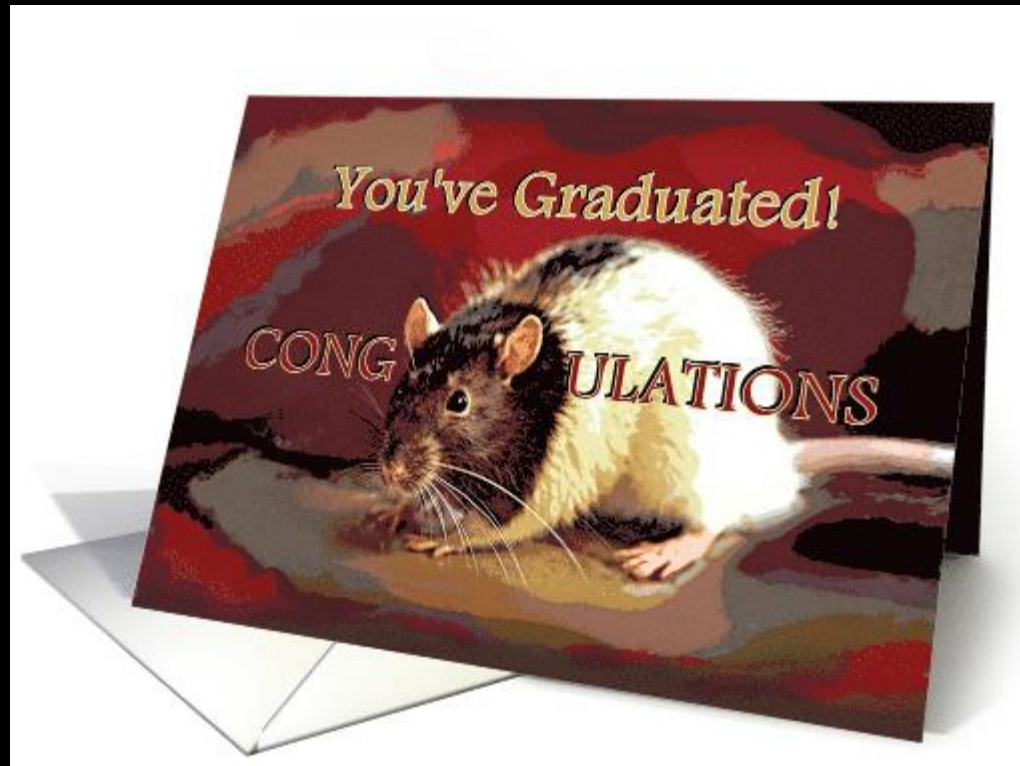


## **Ecclesiastes 2 - continued**

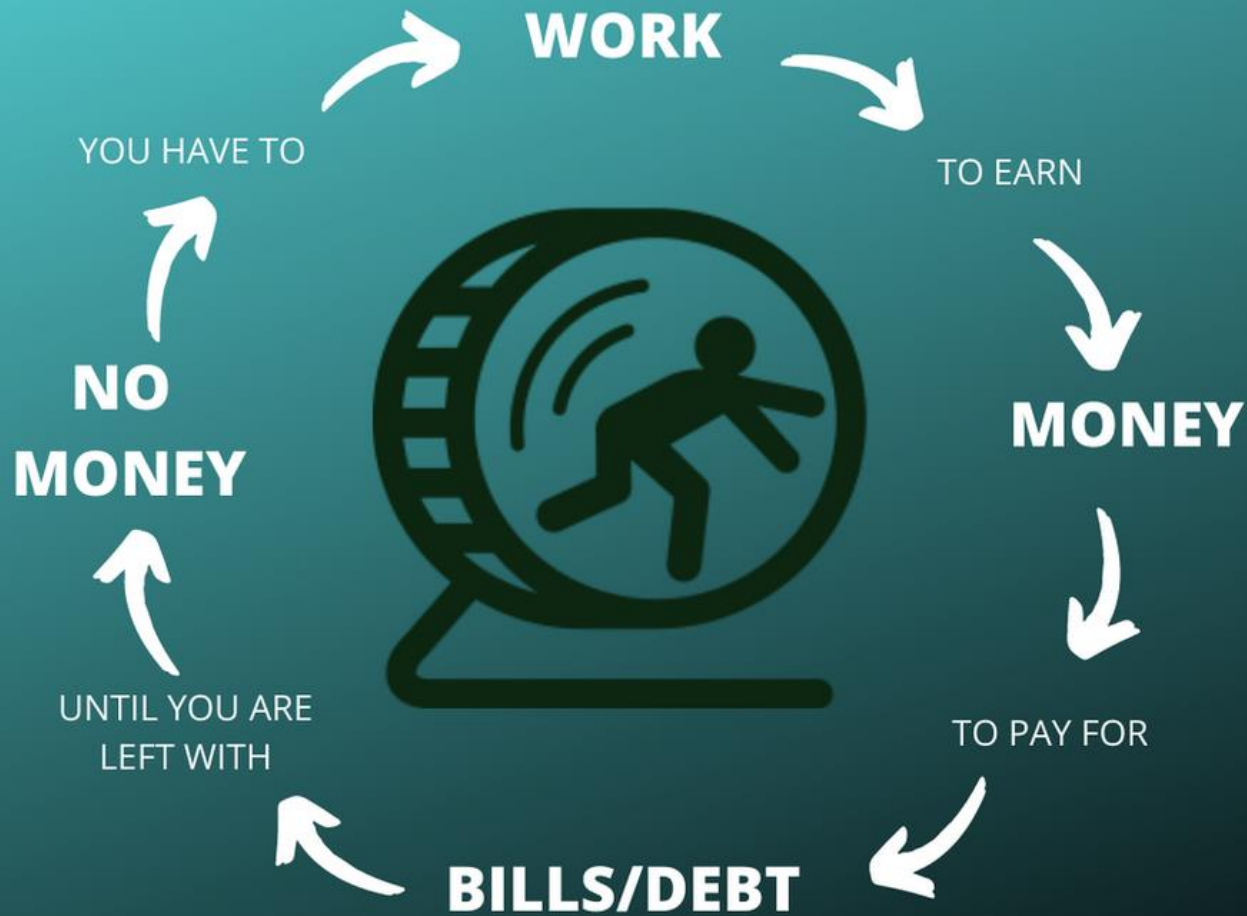
**24 There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.**

**25 For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?**

**26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.**



# THE RAT RACE





**King Solomon**

# **I. The Rat Race**

## **A. The book of Ecclesiastes contrast**

### **Ecclesiastes 1:3**

**What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?**

## **B. Solomon and his search**

### **Ecclesiastes 1:13**

**And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.**

# **I. The Rat Race**

## **C. Solomon searches in education and philosophy**

- 1. Searches out the reason for all things under the sun**
- 2. Observes the phenomenon of nature**
- 3. Tries to understand why things happen as they do**
- 4. Finds frustration**

### **Ecclesiastes 1:14-15**

**14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.**

**15 That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.**

# **I. The Rat Race**

**C. Solomon searches in education and philosophy  
(continued)**

**5. The more he knows, the worse he feels**

**Ecclesiastes 1:18**

**For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that  
increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.**

# **I. The Rat Race**

**D. Solomon intensifies his search and tries pleasure**

**(2:1-3)**

**1. He tries mirth and finds misery**

**2. He tries comedy but finds chaos**

**3. He tries wine but finds it wanting**

**4. He tries diversion but finds it disappointing**



# **I. The Rat Race**

**E. Solomon tries to find meaning in great projects**

- 1. He tries architecture and agriculture (vv 4-6)**
- 2. He tries mansions and music (v 8)**
- 3. He tries power and position (vv 9-11)**

# **I. The Rat Race**

**F. Solomon finds that the things considered  
“meaningful” are “meaningless”**

**Ecclesiastes 2:11**

**Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.**

**Matthew 16:26**

**For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

## **II. How To Know If You Are In The Rat Race**

- A. If you are exhausting yourself to gain material possessions**
- B. If you work night and day to keep up with others**
- C. If you are just getting yourself high for the feeling of the moment**
- D. If your life centers around yourself instead of others**

## **II. How To Know If You Are In The Rat Race**

**E. If you are building your life without the Lord**

**Psalm 127:1**

**Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain  
that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the  
watchman waketh but in vain.**

# **III. How To Get Out Of The Rat Race And Into The Right Race**

**A. Come with your sins to Christ**

**Proverbs 28:13**

**He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso  
confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.**

# **III. How To Get Out Of The Rat Race And Into The Right Race**

**B. Look to Him alone for your salvation**

**Psalm 25:5**

**Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art  
the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.**

# **III. How To Get Out Of The Rat Race And Into The Right Race**

**C. Lay aside every weight and every sin**

**Galatians 5:7**

**Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?**

**Hebrews 12:1**

**Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

### **III. How To Get Out Of The Rat Race And Into The Right Race**

**D. You must run with patience, steadfastness, and consistency**

**1 Corinthians 9:26-27**

**26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:**

**27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**



# **III. How To Get Out Of The Rat Race And Into The Right Race**

**E. Keep your eyes on Jesus**

**Colossians 3:1-2**

**1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

**2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**

# **III. How To Get Out Of The Rat Race And Into The Right Race**

**E. Keep your eyes on Jesus - continued**

**Galatians 3:1**

**O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?**

**If You Give Of Yourself In This Race, You Will  
Not Be Sorry In The End**

**Matthew 10:39**

**He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that  
loseth his life for my sake shall find it.**