

**“When we are pursuing the things that don’t have the power to make us happy, we are ignoring the ones that do.” Dr. Henry Cloud, The Law of Happiness**

 **People Chase After .**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6 (New Living)

Please note: With appreciation, I want to acknowledge some source material used in this message is taken from a message by Pastor Gene Appel.

**How to Wreck Your Life!**

**Focus On What Feels Good**

**Steve Hammer, Lead Pastor January 6 & 7, 2018**

That’s the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty. Ecclesiastes 12:13 (New Living)

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (New International)

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I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.” But I found that this, too, was meaningless. Ecclesiastes 2:1 (New Living)

* **He Tried .**

So I said, “Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?” Ecclesiastes 2:2 (New Living)

* **He Tried .**

After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world. Ecclesiastes 2:3 (New Living)

* **He Tried .**

4I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. 5I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. 6I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. 7I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. 8I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. Ecclesiastes 2:4-8a (New Living)

* **He Tried .**

I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! Ecclesiastes 2:8b (New Living)

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh’s daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. 2The Lord had clearly instructed the people of Israel, “You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods.” Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway. 3He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines. And in fact, they did turn his heart away from the Lord. 4In Solomon’s old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God, as his father, David, had been. 1 Kings 11:1-4 (New Living)

**His conclusion?**

9So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me.10Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. 11But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere. Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 (New Living)

**Warning Signs Of Chasing Pleasure:**

* **Living the “ …” life.**
* **Living the “ and ” life.**
* **Living the “I will be …” life.**