



Common Paths on  
a Frustrating Journey

Ecclesiastes  
1:12-2:11

# The Path of Learning (1:12-18)

## I Kings 10:7

The Queen of Sheba, “But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes, indeed, not even half was told me in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard.”

# The Path of Learning (1:12-18)

Somebody said,

Look around and be distressed, look within and be  
depressed, look to Jesus be at rest

“Philosophy is the study that enables a person to be  
unhappy more intelligently.”

# The Path of Learning (1:12-18)

Albert Szent Gyorgyi,

“I would share with my classmates the rejection of the world as it is. Is there any point in studying and work? Fornicate- at least that’s something good. What else is there to do? Fornicate and take drugs against this terrible strain of idiots who govern the world.”

## The Path of Partying (2:1-3)

Solomon's daily food requirements for his palace—  
“150 bushels of choice flour, 300 bushels of meal,  
10 oxen from the fattening pens, 20 pasture fed  
cattle, 100 sheep or goats as well as deer, gazelles,  
roebucks, and choice fowl

## The Path of Partying (2:1-3)

Sammy Davis Jr. “I didn’t like me. My life was empty.  
Comedy didn’t cut it, mine or somebody else’s.

Jim Murray

“Every package from hell comes disguised as an ecstasy.”

## The Path of Building (2:4-6)

Notice the emphasis is upon himself

Solomon's pools are huge. The average length is 420 feet long by 230 feet wide.

Ted Turner, "Life is like a B-grade movie. You don't want to leave in the middle of it, but you don't want to see it again either."

## The Path of Acquiring Things (2:7-11)

Solomon made each year 25 tons of gold-the equivalent of 40 billion dollars. This did not include additional revenue he received from merchants and traders and all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land.



## The Path of Acquiring Things (2:7-11)

Benjamin Franklin, “A man has never achieved happiness through money and he never will. Money does not have the ability or the resources to make us happy.

The more a man has the more a man wants.

## The Path of Acquiring Things (2:7-11)

John Lennon based on his diaries, “He was a tormented guy till the day he died from youth.”

Rod Steward, “most days I wish I was dead except for those three hours that I’m on stage.”

## The Path of Acquiring Things (2:7-11)

Madonna,

“I have a lot of demons I’m wrestling with, but I want to be happy, I have moments of happiness, but I cannot say I’m ever happy. I’m, working toward knowing myself and I’m assuming that will bring me happiness.”

# The Path of Acquiring Things (2:7-11)

(Speaking about Moses Hebrews 11:25)

and chose rather to suffer adversity with the people  
of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a  
season

# Solomon's final summation of life: Ecclesiastes 2:11

Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done  
and what I had toiled to achieve,  
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;  
nothing was gained under the sun.