

## **“THE PLEASURES OF SIN FOR A SEASON”**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The expression, “The pleasures of sin for a season” is found only one time in the scripture. Cf Heb. 11:25. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived—prior to the coming of Christ—the “wisdom of God.” Much of the wisdom displayed by Solomon was the result of his own experiences and mistakes, along with the wisdom God gave him.

Solomon states that he participated in **all** forms of pleasure to “see” what was good for man. Eccl. 2:3

- 1) He stated that **pleasure** (just having a good time) did not satisfy. Eccl. 2:1
- 2) He stated that **laughter** certainly did not satisfy. v. 2
- 3) He also affirmed that **intoxicants** did not satisfy. v. 3; cf Prov. 20:1
- 4) He then stated that **material things** did not satisfy. vs. 4-8
- 5) He finally stated that **greatness** did not bring satisfaction. vs. 9-11

Solomon’s apparent criticism of life is in view of **LOOKING** at life from *this side of eternity*. v. 11. In Eccl. 8, 9, and 10, the expression “under the sun” is found 9 times, which explains the **vanity of life** that the wise man explained. He **finally** explained that we must look **beyond this life** to fully understand the real meaning of life. Eccl. 12:7, 13-14. Why is it that people today cannot profit by Solomon’s experiences, mistakes and wisdom as revealed in this book? Now, we shall consider WHY “sinful pleasures” **fail** to bring happiness to mankind, and that the enjoyment of sinful pleasures is **momentary**--“for a season.”

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, let’s look at some EXAMPLES.**

A. The Israelites perished because of their sensuality.

1. Their enjoyment of idolatry and fornication brought an unhappy ending. 1 Cor. 10:6-8
2. Just as Canaan was denied to many Israelites because of unholiness, heaven will be denied to all who practice such today. Tit. 2:11-12; Heb. 12:14; 1 Cor. 6:9-11

B. Solomon himself is an example of the failure of momentary pleasure to bring happiness.

1. His 700 heathen wives and 300 heathen concubines turned his heart away from God. 1 Kings 11:3-4
2. Solomon’s star plummeted to the ground, and the kingdom was divided because of **his** evil.

C. The prodigal son also illustrates the folly of sin. Luke 15:11-17 (Discuss as desired)

#### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, there are 5 reasons while SINFUL PLEASURE IS MOMENTARY.**

A. 1<sup>st</sup>, momentary pleasures **focus** on man being “matter in motion” without a soul from God that shall give account for life here. Eccl. 12:7; 2 Cor. 5:10

B. 2<sup>nd</sup>, momentary pleasures **focus** on the “sowing” and not the “reaping.” Prov. 22:8; Hos. 8:7; 10:12-15; Gal. 6:7-8

C. 3<sup>rd</sup>, momentary pleasures **focus** on the pleasures of today rather than the problems, consequences and responsibilities of tomorrow. Num. 32:23; Prov. 9:17-18

1. We need to realize that there is more to life than living in pleasure, and more to death than just dying, for there is also the judgment. 1 Tim. 5:6; Heb. 9:27
2. Sin has it’s consequences—both now and in the hereafter.

D. 4<sup>th</sup>, momentary pleasures are just that—**momentary**, and do not endure forever.

1. Some practice adultery and ask for pardon, but keep practicing it.
2. Moses saw the value of looking BEYOND into eternity itself. Heb. 11:24-27

E. 5<sup>th</sup>, momentary pleasures **destroy** rather than build up or even bring lasting pleasure, for none are closer to God while practicing sin.

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. In closing, let me emphasize two things.

A. 1<sup>st</sup>, God isn't just a "mean God" who doesn't want us to enjoy life.

1. God knows the **kind** of pleasure that will send our souls to hell, so he warns us of them.
2. God knows the value of **discipline** and **abstinence** in living righteously and preparing us for heaven.
3. God also provides **many many** ways of righteous pleasure that meets His approval, for HE made man, and knows what is best for him to bring lasting happiness.
  - a. There are spiritual things, such as the Bible, church, salvation, God's love, brotherly love, Christian fellowship and the hope of heaven that bring pleasure.
  - b. There are family things, such as marriage, sex within marriage, family celebrations and associations, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, family games, vacations and activities that bring pleasure.
  - c. There are natural things, such as the sunrise, sunset, moon, stars, the ocean, mountains, rivers, hunting and fishing that also bring pleasure.
  - d. Most of all, God reserves the pleasures of heaven, where we can eat of the tree of life and be with all our redeemed loved ones, forever and ever.  
Rev. 22:1-5; Matt. 25:21

B. 2<sup>nd</sup>, let me emphasize that **ALL** who violate God's will by participating in the "sinful pleasures for a season, **can** be forgiven and enjoy a right fellowship with Him and others who have forsaken sin, and then enjoy the hope of everlasting life in heaven.

II. The gospel provides salvation through the blood of Jesus, to all who believe in Him, confess their faith in His Son, repent of their sins, and are immersed in water can be saved now and forever.

Don Tarbet