

Life Under The Sun

Pursuit of Labor Is Futility

Ecclesiastes 2:18 - 23

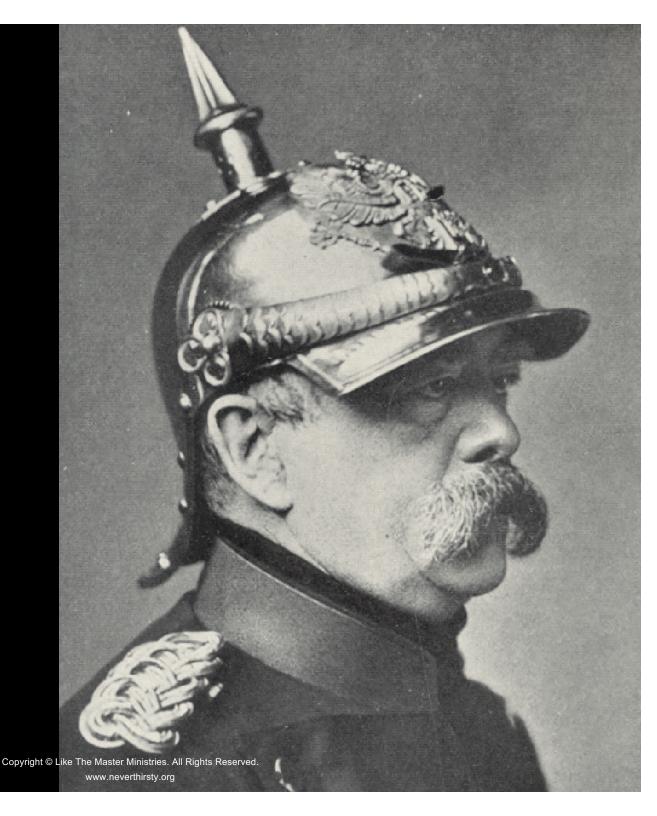
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Retirement Planning

Otto Von Bismark

Minister of Prussia 1883



Retirement Existed For Some

- Some cities provide retirement for:
 - Soldiers
 - Police
 - Firefighters
 - Teachers



New Testament Urges Care For Widows

1 Tim. 5:1-16 urges care:

- If widows were 60 years or older
- Married to one husband
- Brought up children
- Without children to care for her
- Was hospitable
- Assisted those in distress

Outline of Chapters 1 - 2

1:1-11 The Theme

1:12-18 Method of Discovery

Human Activities

2:1-11 – Pursue Pleasure

2:12-17 — Purse Wisdom

2:18-23 – Purse Labor

2:24-26 Recommendations



There Is No Lasting Satisfaction!

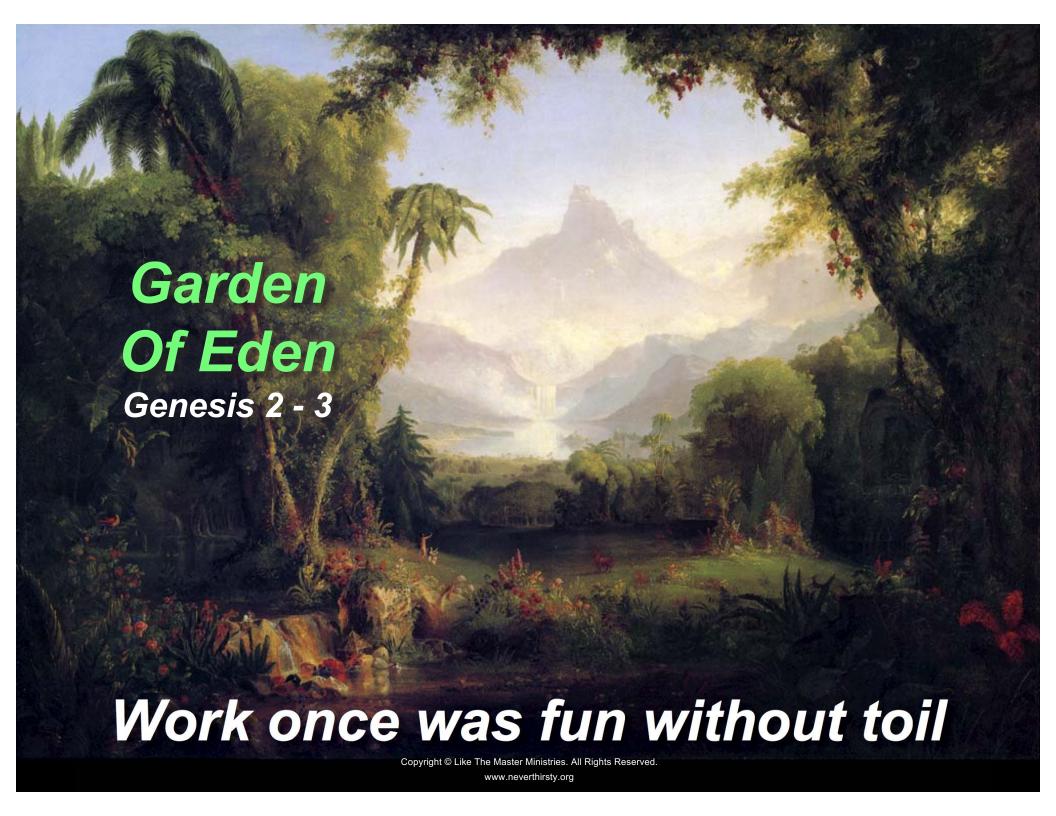
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Ecclesiastes 2:18



AMAL = "trouble, labor, toil, suffering"



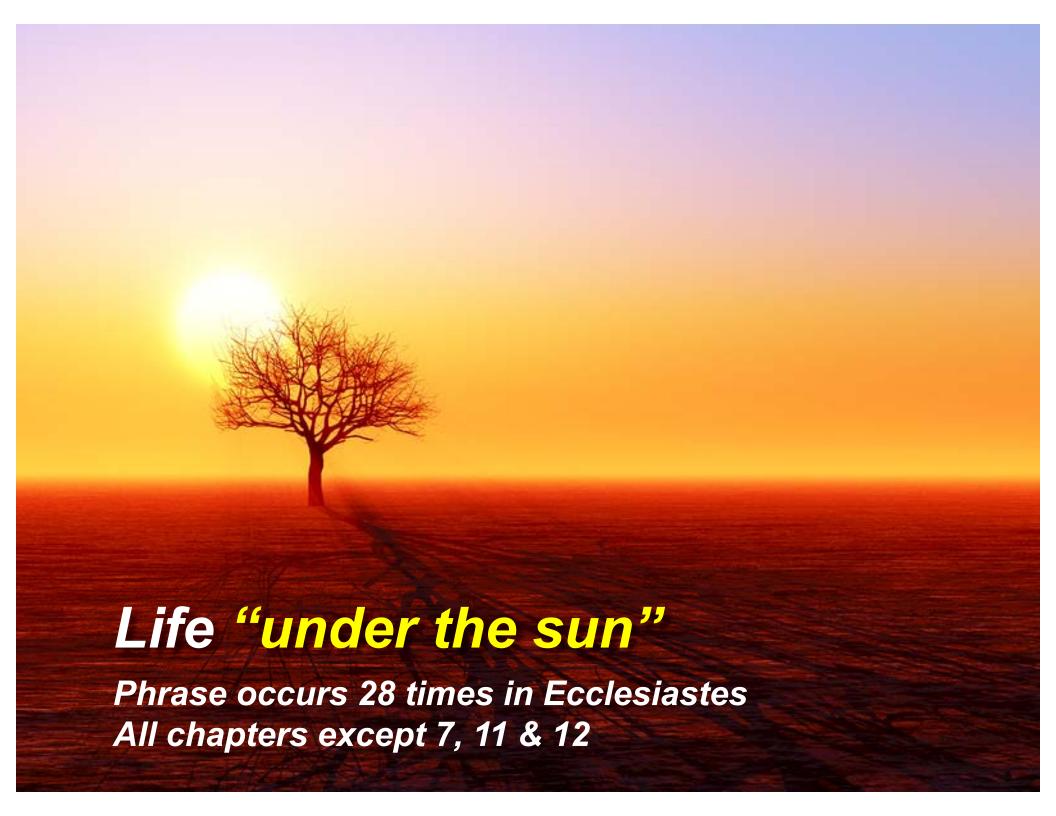


Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.

Genesis 3:17-19

For he does not think much about the fleeting days of his life because God keeps him preoccupied with the joy he derives from his activity.

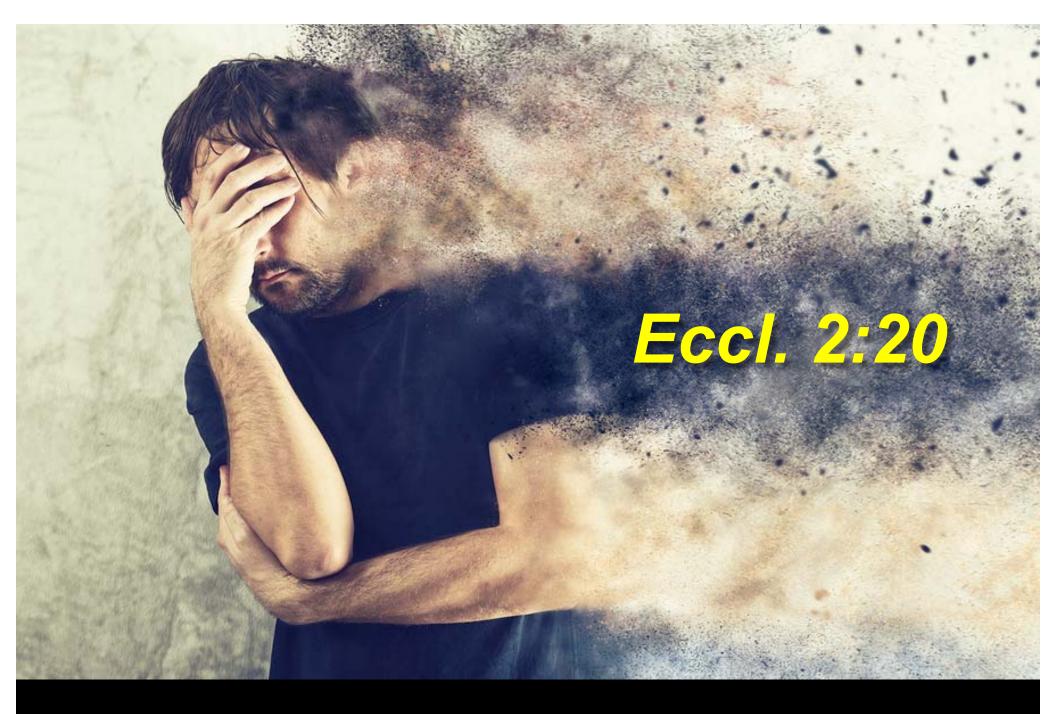
Eccl. 5:20



Ecclesiastes 2:18 - 19

Why does Solomon hate his toil?

- 1. Must leave his wealth to someone who continues living.
- 2. Does not know if he or she be wise.
- 3. Yet, he or she will have total control.
- 4. He worked hard to achieve.



So Solomon Utterly Despaired

Ecclesiastes 2:21

What is King Solomon's concern?

Children
Usually
Squander
Their
Inheritance



- 70% of 1st generation children squander their inheritance.
- 90% of 2nd generation . . .



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Ecclesiastes 2:21

King Solomon's concern:

Man who inherits his wealth will squander it

Ecclesiastes 2:22

What was he concerned about?

- 1. He could not take his stuff with him at death.
- 2. His stuff might be squandered.



Ecclesiastes 2:23

We work hard all the time . . .

is a vanity – a soap bubble



Our Conclusion

Ecclesiastes 2:18 - 23

- Our toil under the sun has no eternal reward.
- Yet, a righteous man will leave an inheritance to his children and grandchildren – Prov. 13:22
- Only what we do for Christ has eternal value
 - 1 Cor. 15:58

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

Prov. 13:22