



# I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH

*Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26*



# JUST PASSING THROUGH:

- **Backpack or U-Haul?**
  - **Christians do not find permanent rest in this life. So why do so many of us live as if we do?**
    - **In Christ we do find rest from our burdens and weariness.**  
**Matthew 11:28-30**
    - **But, Christ (the gospel) does not promise us a life of ease.**  
**Hebrews 11:9-10**



**“People who follow Jesus often lose sight of the world to come. We become resident Christians rather than nomadic Christians. We become fully integrated in this world rather than viewing ourselves as passing through, and we do this by living as if our greatest treasures are the here and now.**

*-David Gibson, “Living Life Backwards” pg. 35*



# JUST PASSING THROUGH:

- Backpack or U-Haul?
  - **Matthew 6:19-21**
  - This section of Ecclesiastes helps us to stop “from doing the wrong kind of storing, and to help us do the right kind of storing...” (Gibson, 36)
- Approaching this section in three ways:
  1. The Human Pursuit **1:12-2:24**
  2. The Permanent Human Problem **2:15-23**
  3. The True Human perspective **2:24-26**



# JUST PASSING THROUGH:

## 1. The Human Pursuit **1:12-2:14**

- The pursuits of this life often revolve around trying to be happy. Solomon was no exception. **1:12-13**
- Knowledge has its limits **1:14-18**
- Pleasure for pleasure sake doesn't deliver either. **2:1-11**
- A wise life, while good, produces no ultimate gain. **2:12-14**



# JUST PASSING THROUGH:

## 2. The Permanent Human Problem **2:15-23**

- The preacher discovers that he cannot change reality **vv.14b-15**
- Everyone ends up in the same place and we cannot escape that fact. **vv.16-17**
- He asks what's the point of my labor? **vv.18-21**
- So what's the point? **vv.22-23 cf. 1:2-3**



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## 3. The True Human Perspective **2:24-26**

- Up until now God has been absent from the preacher's words. Here we begin to start to see the light.
- There is nothing better... **v.24**
  - Pleasures, riches, wisdom, etc. are not a means to an end they are the end themselves.
  - They are gifts from God to enjoy as we are here “under the sun.”
- There is no gain in this life because life (under the sun) was not meant for gain.

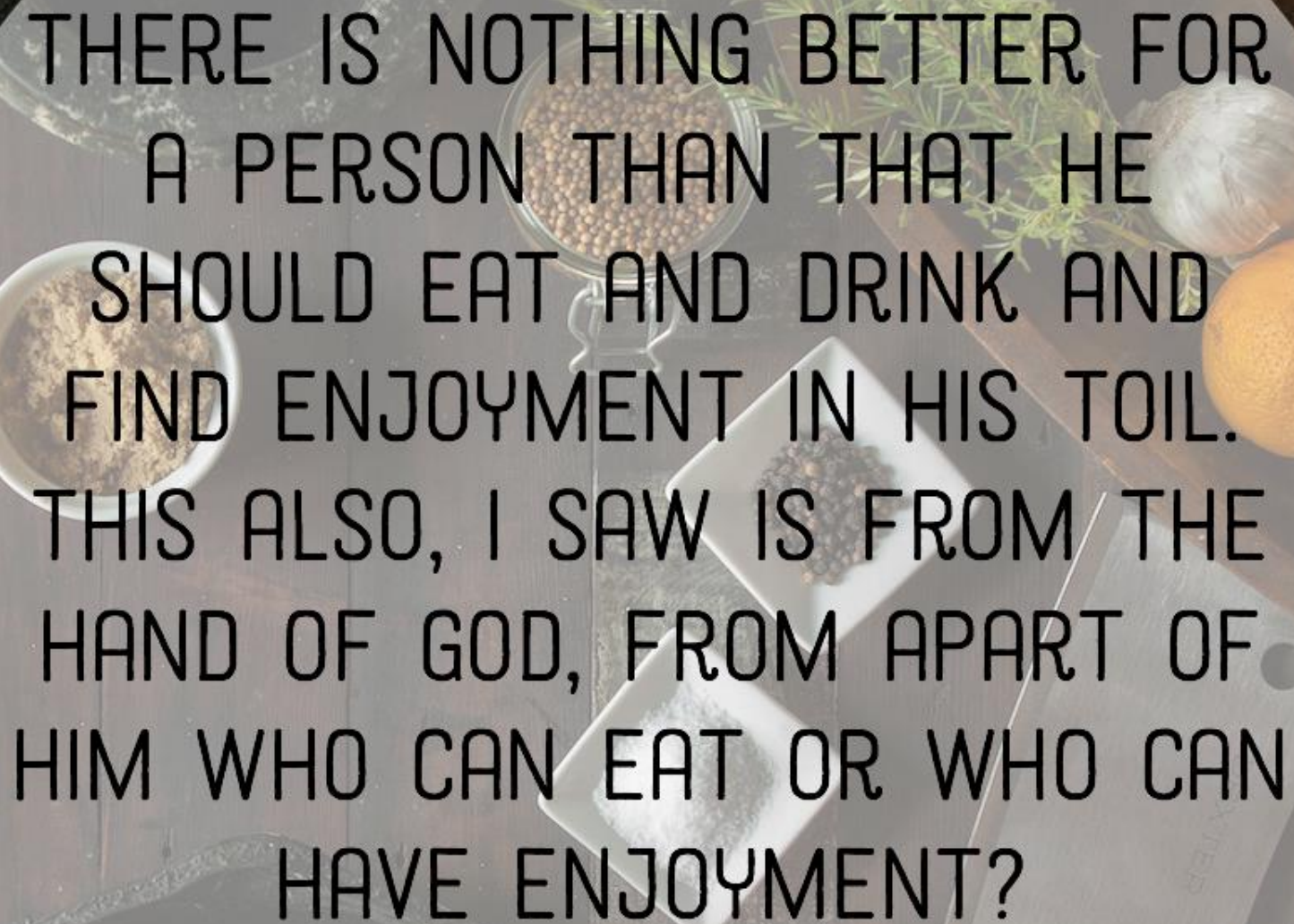


**Life is madness and vanity when it is pursued as gain. However, if we accept it for what it is, life is full of blessing and joy.**

**“Life really is full of joy.”**







THERE IS NOTHING BETTER FOR  
A PERSON THAN THAT HE  
SHOULD EAT AND DRINK AND  
FIND ENJOYMENT IN HIS TOIL.  
THIS ALSO, I SAW IS FROM THE  
HAND OF GOD, FROM APART OF  
HIM WHO CAN EAT OR WHO CAN  
HAVE ENJOYMENT?

ECCLESIASTES 2:24-25