

# The Happiness Code

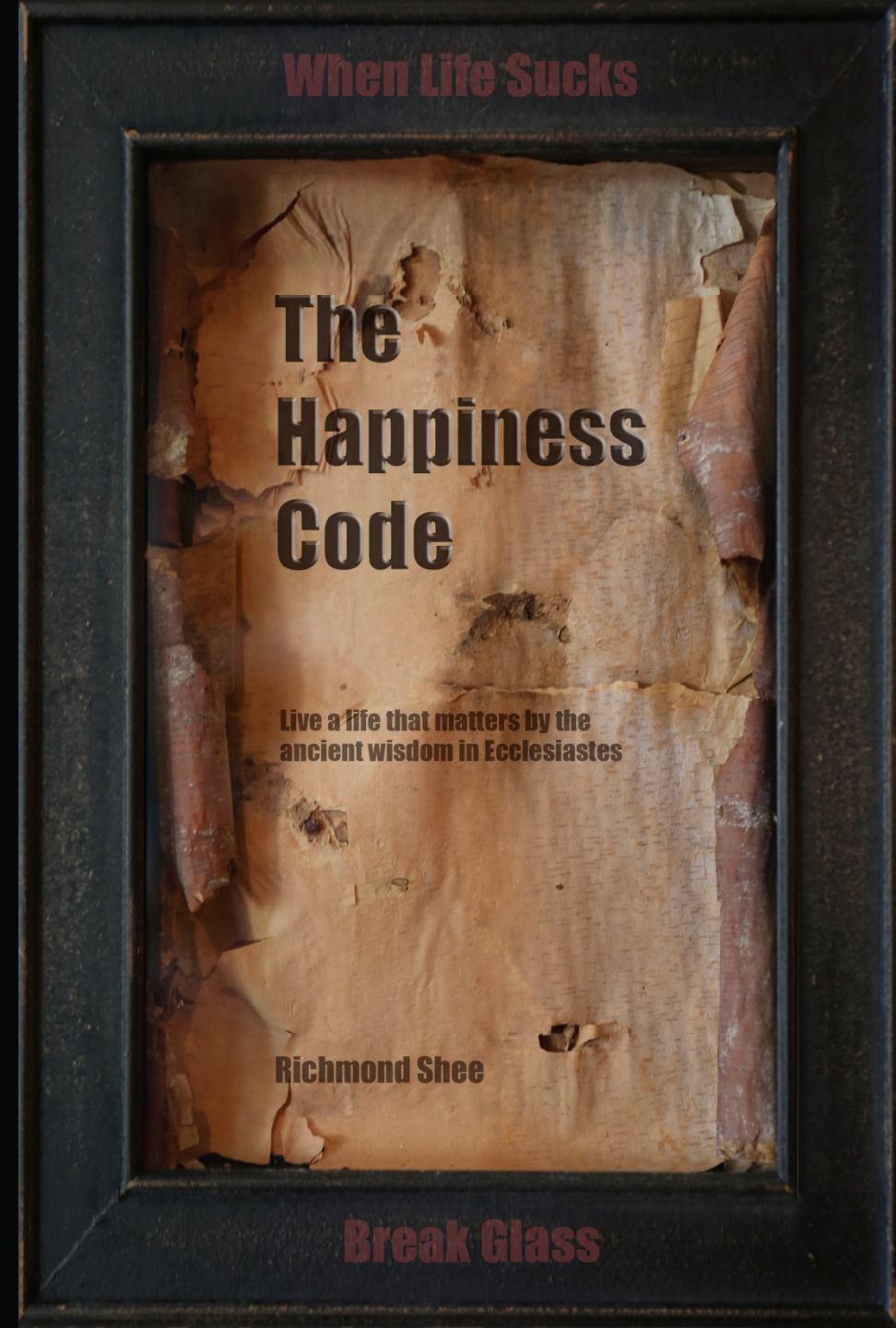
Week 4 – Vanity of Worldly  
Pleasures and Possessions

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11



# Recap from Week #1 thru #3:

- Vanity of Vanities
  - Mankind is in the vanity of vanities—a place void of happiness. You don't have to believe it, but you will certainly feel the pain of emptiness.
- Vanity of human courses under the sun.
  - This truth is modeled by mortality, sun, wind, and river. Humans can labor all they want, but are no closer to happiness.
  - It is impossible for the human creature to be content and happy without Jesus Christ because the eyes and ears are never satisfied and failing memory causes the creature to repeat the same failed practices.
- Vanity of knowledge
  - While knowledge is useful to individuals, it falls short of delivering happiness.





## Week #4: Level Set

Since the noble pleasures of learning and knowledge that make a person wise don't yield happiness, what do I do now?

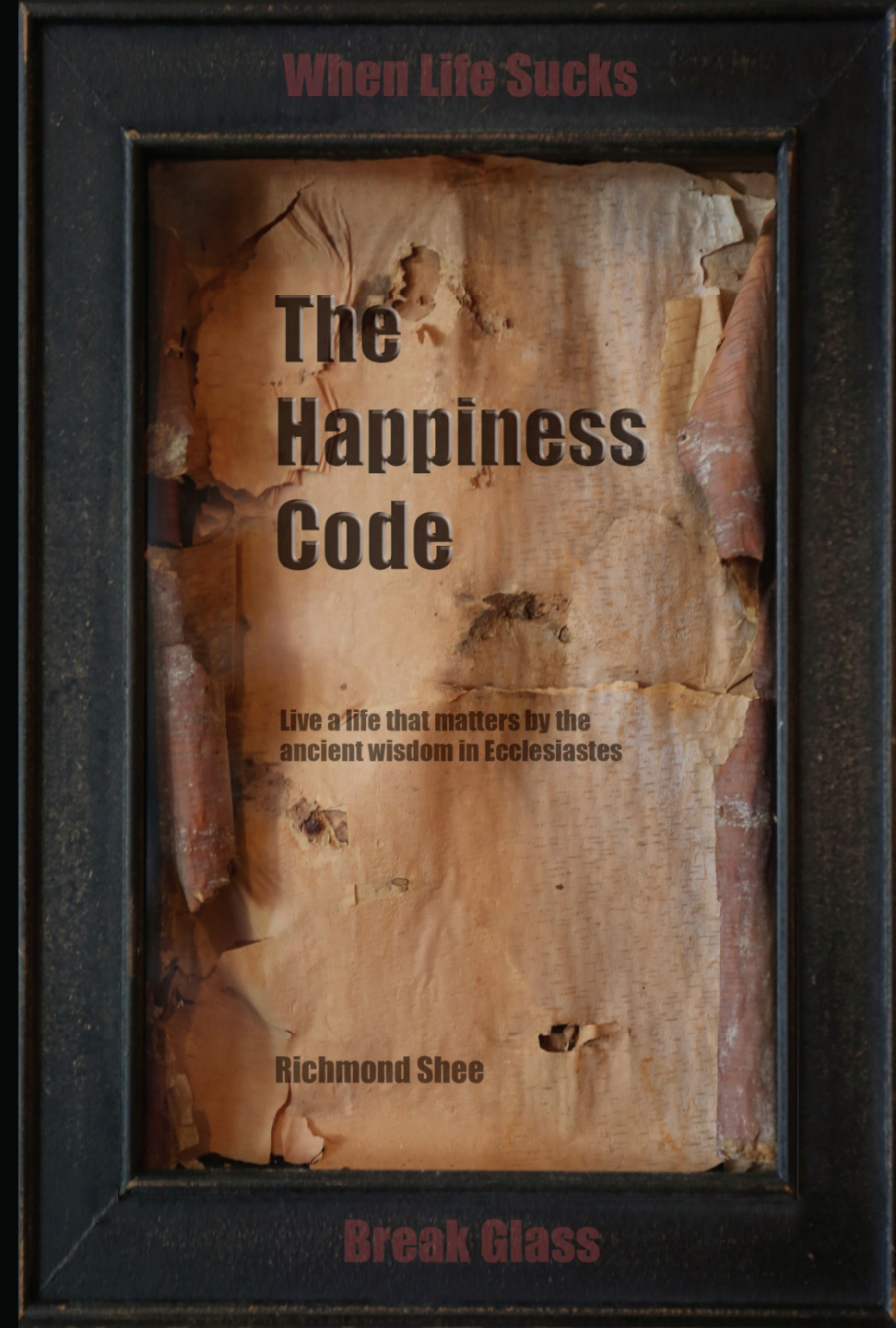
Hmm, I will try sensual pleasures by way of foolishness and madness!



# This week's special offer

In exchange for living large—play like a king, eat like a king, and live like a king everyday of your life, you promise to never again worship God, read the Bible, attend church, and pray in Jesus' name.

Deal?





# Week #4: Level Set

Trial	Gratification	Lifestyle	Logic
Mirth	Pleasure of entertainment	Play like a king	Be dumb and happy. “Laughter is the best medicine,” so I want to be entertained and laugh my way out of depression and the pain of emptiness.
“Wine” – Fine foods and drinks	Social and sensual pleasures	Eat like a king	Be fat and happy. I want to feast my way out of depression and the pain of emptiness.
Worldly possessions	Material pleasure	Live like a king	Be rich and happy. Material will get me out of depression and the pain of emptiness.

Ecc 2:1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure...



I just want to  
laugh and be  
happy

- “Go to now” → departure from God.
  - Solomon approved and released himself to a decadent lifestyle.
  - “I” appears 20 times in Ecclesiastes 2:1-11.
  - Disobedience begins in the heart—“I said in mine heart.”
- What is mirth?
  - Mirth is the amusement of senses, especially as expressed in laughter.
  - It comes in various forms and can be innocent or dirty—anything that makes people laugh.
  - TV late night comedies are a form of mirth.
  - A stark contrast to learning, which is very laborious.
- Why mirth leads the way?
  - **Ecc 7:4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.**
  - **Proverbs 15:21a Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom.**

Ecc 2:1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure...

Logic: Be dumb and happy



MIRTH  
(pleasure of  
entertainment)



I'm tired of  
being  
unhappy

I want to be  
merry

I'm going to  
manufacture  
happiness  
through mirth

Ecc 2:1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure...

The logic won't fly!



MIRTH  
(pleasure of  
entertainment)



Isaiah 50:11 Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

What's your mirth?

Innocent mirth  
is okay!



Ecc 2:1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity. (2) I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?



- How quickly mirth is dismissed as empty – in the same sentence!
- Mirth fails to erase the depression of the mind and the pain of emptiness.  
**Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.**
- Innocent mirth used moderately helps soften the stress of life. Too much mirth may cause people to be hysterical, maniac, and act insanelly—“I said of laughter, It is mad.”

Ecc 2:3 I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.



#### SOCIAL & SENSUAL PLEASURES – EAT & ENTERTAIN LIKE A KING

- “Wine” – Immoderate indulgence in fine foods and drinks, and enjoy good conversations and laughter among friends.

**Ecc 10:19a A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry.**

- Solomon was a real king who ate like a king.

**1Kings 4:22 And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal, (23) Ten fat oxen, and twenty oxen out of the pastures, and an hundred sheep, beside harts, and roebucks, and fallowdeer, and fatted fowl.**

- “Yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom” – not to binge or be a stupid drunk, but to be guided by wisdom as in Ecc 1:13.
- Purpose: “Till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.”

Ecc 2:3 I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly. . .



- Besides “wine,” Solomon also laid hold on folly—indulged in other foolish things that children of the world deemed as happiness, some of which he enumerated in the next five verses.
- To live like a king!
- Get ready for debauchery on steroid.



Ecc 2:4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:  
(5) I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:  
(6) I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:



### PALATIAL PALACES & PLAYGROUNDS – LIVE LIKE A KING

- One of Solomon's palaces took 13 years to construct.
  - 1Kings 7:1-12
  - "Costly stones" mentioned 3X
  - His royal seat in the porch of judgment was a great ivory throne overlaid with fine gold.
  - His drinking vessels were of pure gold. 1Kings 10:18-21.
- Vineyards in Engedi and Baalhamon – SOS 1:14, 8:11.
- SOS 7:12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.

Ecc 2:7 I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house...



- LIVING LARGE: An uber-luxe, haute, and pampered lifestyle.
- A retinue of happy servants waited on him hand and foot.
- 1Kings 10:4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, (5) And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her. (6) And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. (7) Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. (8) Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.



Ecc 2:7 . . .also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:



- Great possessions of great and small cattle.
- “Cattle” is generic for livestock such as oxen, cows, horses, asses, camels, mules, sheep, and goats.
- A form of currency used in barter, trade, and gifts, as well as in religious sacrificial rites, in agriculture plowing and threshing, and in transportation.
- In biblical times a man’s wealth was measured by the number of livestock he owned. Gen 24:35



Ecc 2:8 I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces...



- About 20 metric tons of gold in one year.
- 1Kings 10:14 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold.
- So great was the quantity of gold that nobody cared to weigh the silver.
- 1Kings 10:27a And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones.
- Plus a collection of rare, precious, and exquisite treasures from royalties and provinces.
- 1Kings 4:21 And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

Ecc 2:8 . . .I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.



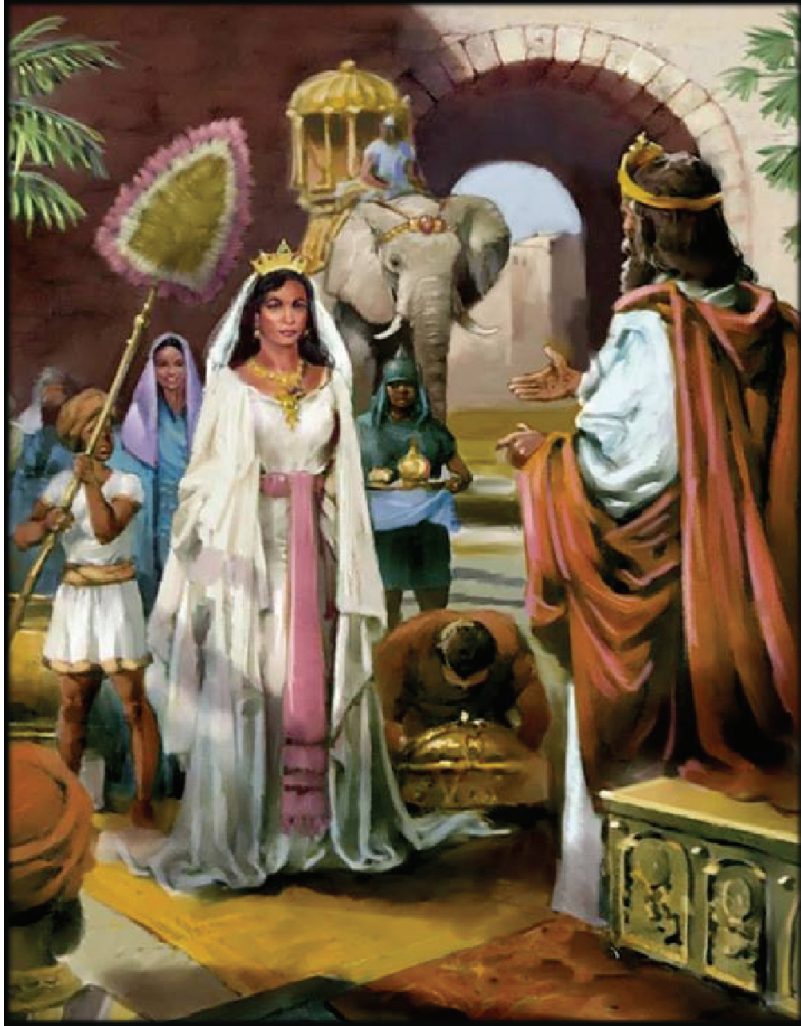
- Solomon crowned his immense riches with music.
- His scrumptious banquets and social events were splendid and lively with professional singers with impeccable voices and musicians capable of playing all sorts of musical instruments.



- LIVE CONCERTS, OPEN BARS, GOOD FOODS – LIFE'S GOOD!



Ecc 2:9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. (10) And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.



- Magnified in possessions and in amplified debauchery and extravagance.
- 1Kings 10:23 So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.
- Unbridled lust of the eyes and the flesh.
- 1Kings 11:3a And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines.
- Solomon was the crème de la crème, the most enviable person in the world, and was the poster child of happiness.



Ecc 2:11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.



- “All was vanity and vexation of spirit”  
Since Solomon’s grand version of debauchery didn’t deliver happiness, what makes you think your miniature version will?
- “There was no profit under the sun”  
Look at all the things that you manufactured for happiness; the sparks and fire that you kindled (Isaiah 50:11) to make you happy, and name one that yields happiness.
- Is it time for you to reset your affection to things above? Col 3:1-3

Hello self-serving people,  
your world is falling apart.

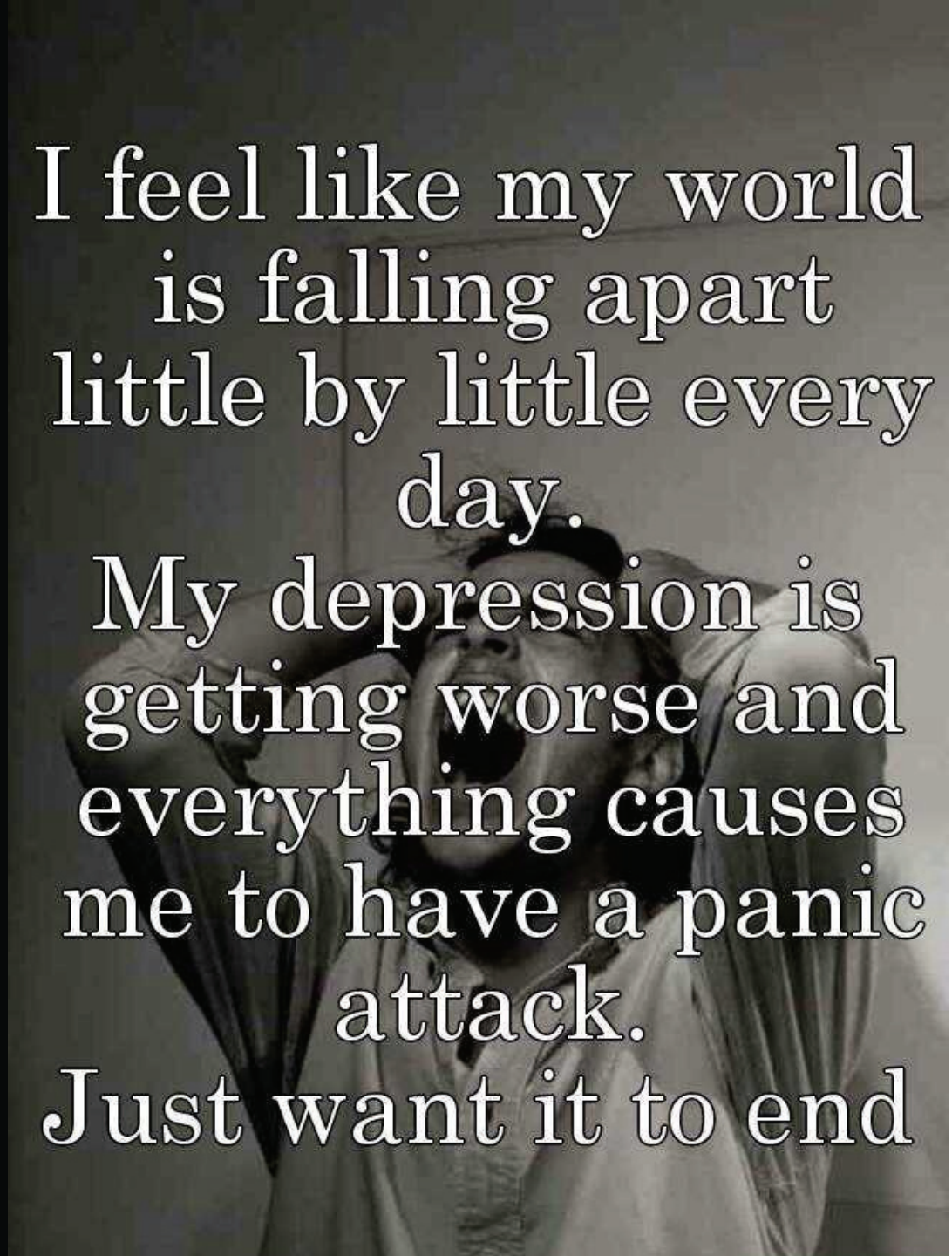
- No help from the WORLD—vanities of vanities.
- No help from SELF—eyes, ears, and memory will drive you restless and unhappy.
- No help from KNOWLEDGE.
- No help from MIRTH (pleasure of entertainment).
- No help from social and sensual pleasures.
- No help from material pleasure.

What are you going to do now for  
happiness?

I feel like my world  
is falling apart  
little by little every  
day.

My depression is  
getting worse and  
everything causes  
me to have a panic  
attack.

Just want it to end



# I'd Rather Have Jesus

Rhea F. Miller

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land,  
Yes, I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

Chorus:

Than to be the king of a vast domain  
And be held in sin's dread sway  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything  
This world affords today.

I'd rather have Jesus than worldly applause,  
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;  
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame,  
I'd rather be true to His holy name.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTyTD34cxk0>



# You have been illuminated to these truths:

Trial	Gratification	Lifestyle	Logic	Result
Mirth	Pleasure of entertainment	Play like a king	Be dumb and happy. “Laughter is the best medicine,” so I want to be entertained and laugh my way out of depression and the pain of emptiness.	Fail
“Wine” – Fine foods and drinks	Social and sensual pleasures	Eat like a king	Be fat and happy. I want to feast my way out of depression and the pain of emptiness.	Fail
Worldly possessions	Material pleasure	Live like a king	Be rich and happy. Material will get me out of depression and the pain of emptiness.	Fail

- Since Solomon’s grand debauchery did not deliver happiness, my miniature version has zero chance. There is no profit under the sun.
- Remember the lesson from the rivers in Ecc 1:7?  
“All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.”
- Please submit your questions and feedback to [TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com](mailto:TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com)