

# The Happiness Code

Week 5 – Vanity of Worldly Success

Ecclesiastes 2:12-26



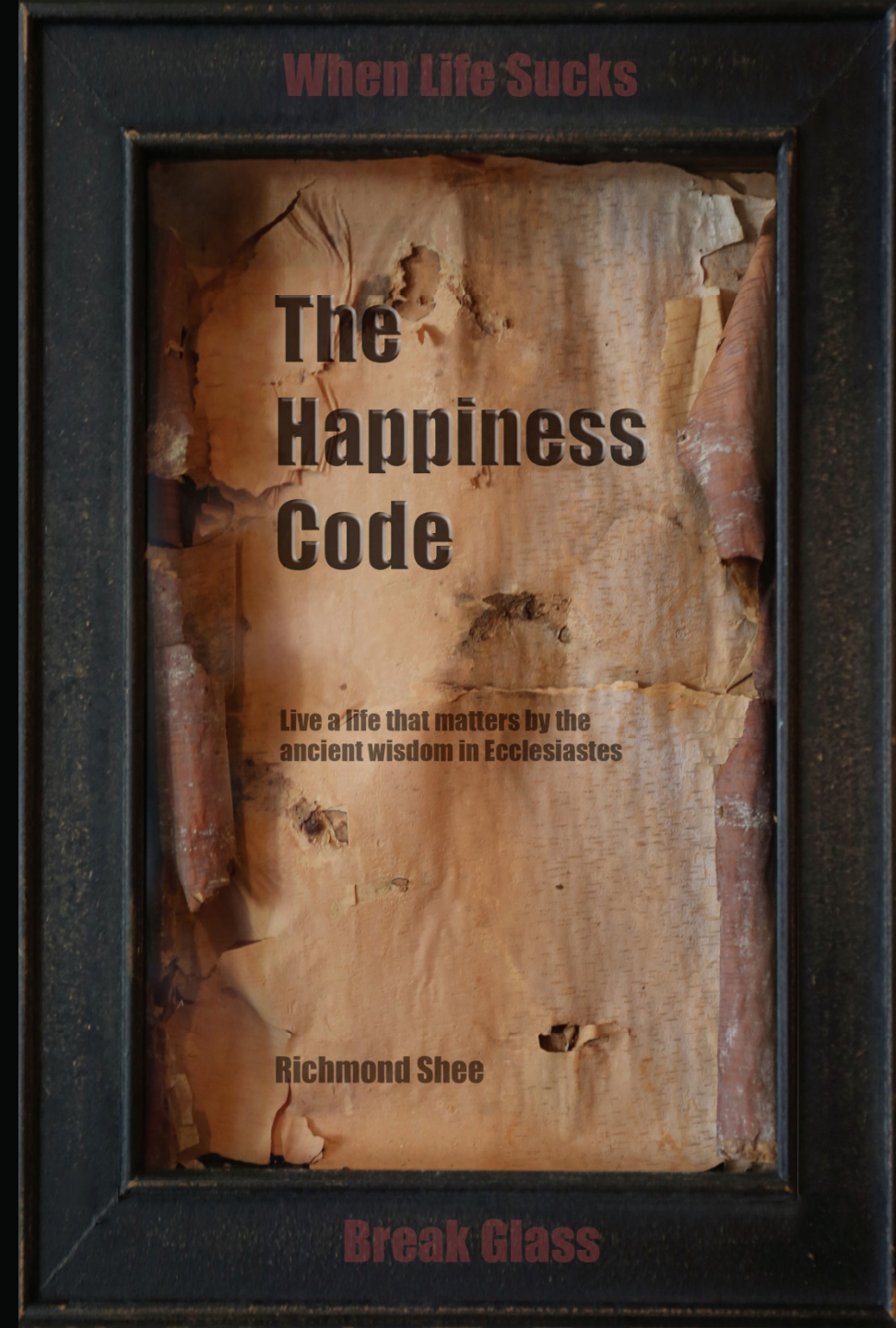
# Recap from Week #3 and #4:

## Wise

- Learning & Knowledge

## Foolish

- Mirth – pleasure of entertainment
- “Wine” – social and sensual pleasures
- Material pleasure





# Recap from Week #3 and #4:

## Wise

- Learning & Knowledge

✗ No happiness

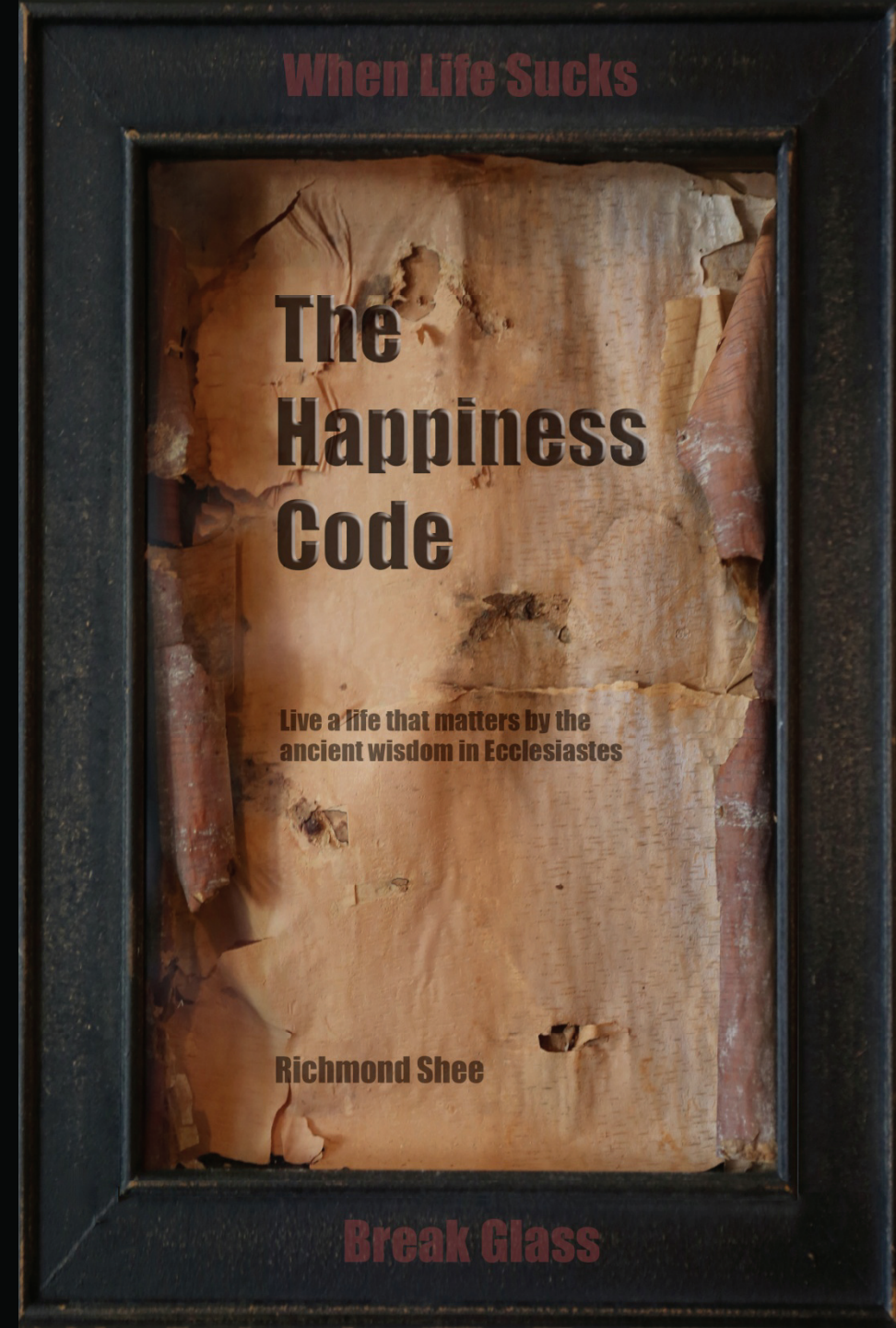
## Foolish

- Mirth – pleasure of entertainment
- “Wine” – social and sensual pleasures
- Material pleasure

✗ No happiness

Wise = Fools

YIKES!!! THE WISE AND THE FOOLS ARE NO DIFFERENT  
WHEN THEY LIVE FOR SELF UNDER THE SUN.



## Week #5: Level Set

What's in it for successful self-serving professionals under the sun?



Profound Professional



Frenzied Fool

Wise = Fools



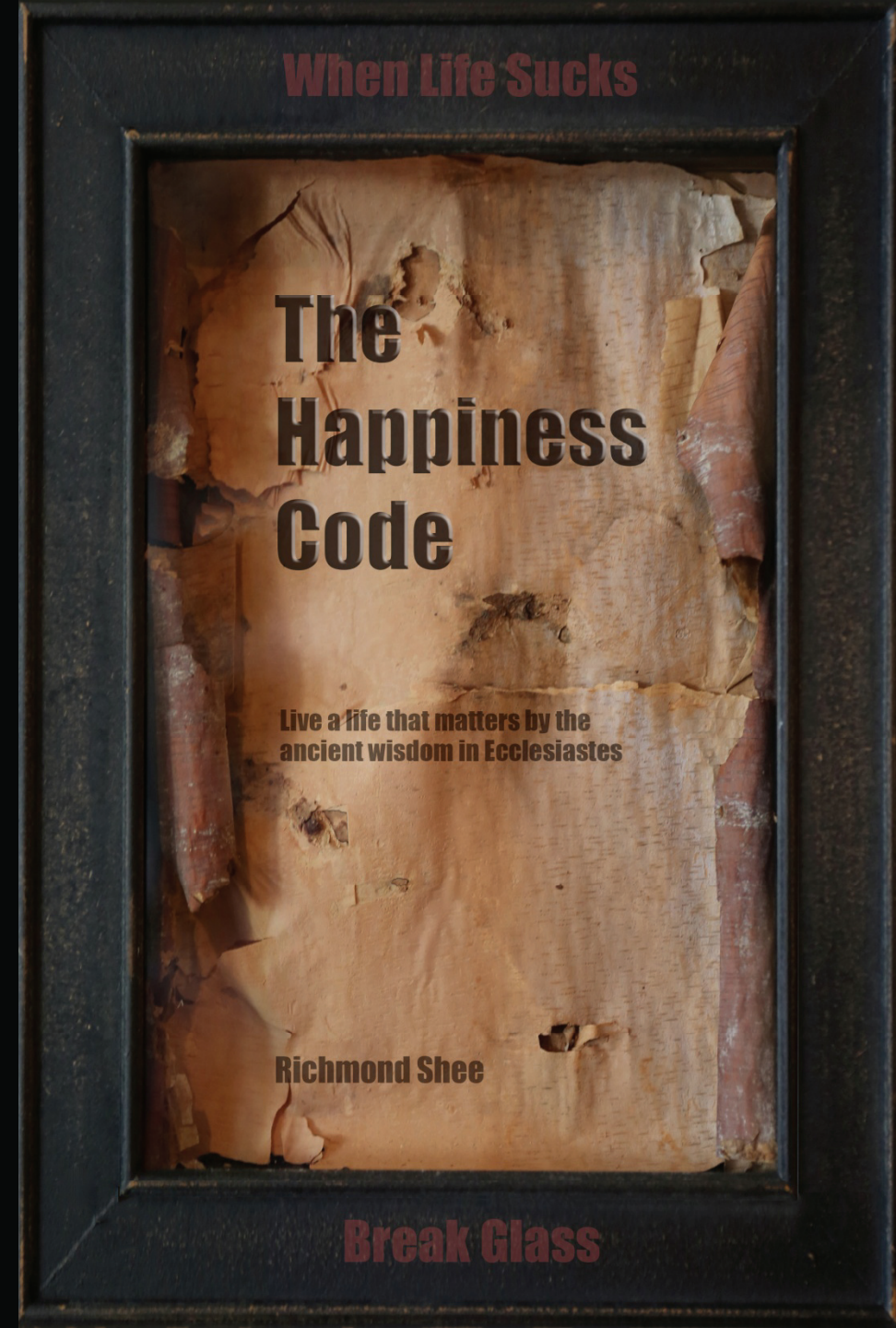
## Week #5: Level Set

Is it preposterous that happiness eludes self-serving professionals?

How many professionals do you know have committed suicide because they weren't happy?

□ E □ T □

This 5-letter word reality causes successful self-serving professionals to hate their lives and accomplishments, and despair of all their works.



Eccl 2:12 And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done.

### The Solomon's Guarantee



- Solomon was careful not to miss anything in his research, so that no one could challenge his findings.
- Everything he did was extreme—extreme learning, extreme entertainment, extreme feasting, extreme living, extreme debauchery, etc., to the intent that if such extreme measures fail to secure happiness, all lesser versions have no hope.
- To be sure, he double checked his works, and was certain sure that no one could improve upon that which he had done.

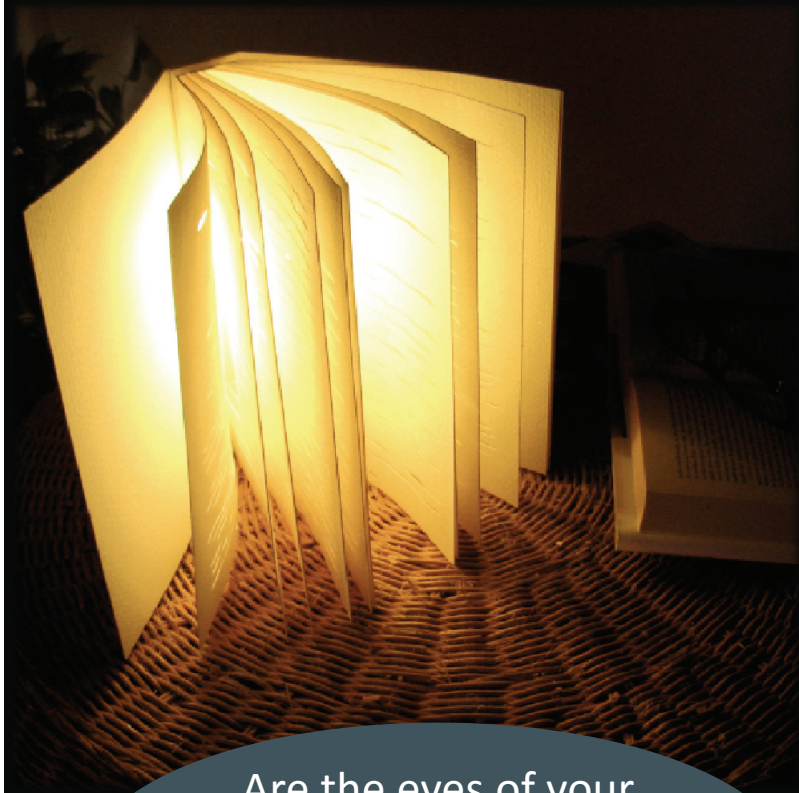
Ecc 2:13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.



- Successful people deserved to be admired, complimented, recognized, and rewarded for their achievements.  
**Proverbs 12:8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.**
- Even though self-serving professionals and fools share a common fate on happiness, wisdom (skills acquired through knowledge and experience) is far more profitable to an individual than folly.
- Excel = profit. The difference is night and day.
- Not a rocket science!  
Learned and skillful people have better life than fools.  
Wisdom helps them to make sound decisions leading to a good and safe living.



# Ecc 2:14 The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness. . .



Are the eyes of your understanding getting spiritual light from the Bible?

What's in it for self-serving professionals under the sun?

- The eyes of smart people are in their proper place.
- The light of knowledge helps them navigate their courses.
- They make sound decisions and live a better and more enjoyable life.
- Fools hate knowledge and choose the pleasures of folly.  
*Pr 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?*
- *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.*
- Without the light of knowledge, fools grope and stumble in their way, make costly bad life decisions, and crash and burn.
- Their eyes might as well not be in their heads because they choose to walk in darkness.
- ONE MUST INVEST IN KNOWLEDGE TO LIVE A BETTER AND MORE ENJOYABLE LIFE.



Ecc 2:14. . . and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.



- While the knowledge and skills of the professionals set them apart from fools, how quickly they meet again.
- WISE = FOOLS.
  - Both share a common fate on happiness.
  - Death happens to both.
- The successes of the professionals are not able to deliver them from DEATH.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.
- Born once, die twice; born twice, die once.

Ecc 2:15 Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.



- When both the professional and the fool lay in their caskets, is there a difference in their end state if there is no hereafter?
- What's the point of enduring the pain of learning, working hard to differentiate oneself, and building a successful life in this world when death levels and sweeps away all distinctions?
- A LIFE DEVOTED TO LEARNING AND SHARPENING OF SKILLS HAS NO ADVANTAGE OVER A LIFE WASTED IN MADNESS AND FOLLY.

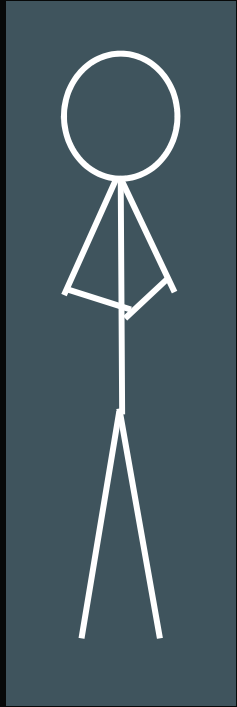
Ecc 2:16 For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten.



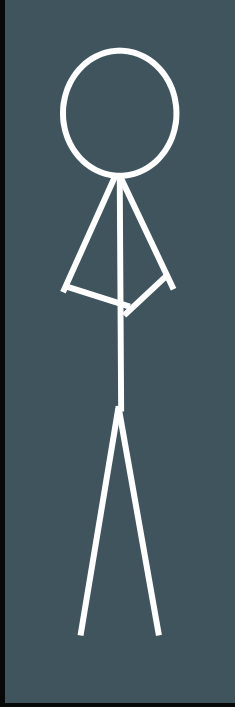
- No consolation to smart, diligent, and successful people, who might have hoped to be at least remembered for their good works and contributions to the world.
- Think you can leave a lasting impression in this world?
- You may be the bomb right now, but when you die, it will be as if you had never lived.
- WISE = FOOLS.
  - Both share a common fate on happiness.
  - Death happens to both.
  - Both will eventually be forgotten.



Ecc 2:16 . . . And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.



A professional  
in casket

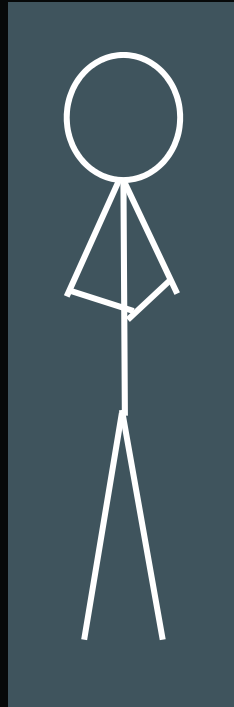


A fool in  
casket

Is there a difference  
in their end state?

- Worldly success cannot prevent the professionals from being reduced to the same condition as fools.
- What advantage does the professional have over the fool?
- Both stink and are worm food.  
*Job 21:26 They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the worms shall cover them.*
- Both wasted their lives and died the fool's death.
- IF YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR GOD BECAUSE YOUR CAREER, FAMILY, AND ENJOYMENTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT, THEN AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU ARE NO BETTER THAN A DEAD CRACK HEAD.

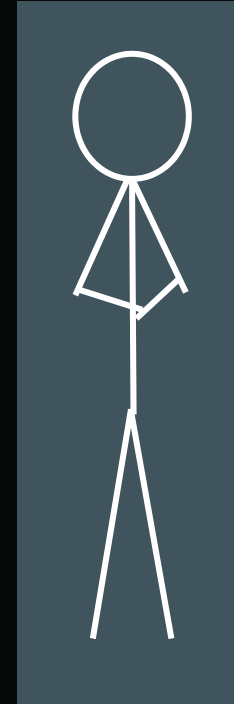
Ecc 2:16 . . . And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.



A professional  
in casket



A dead dog  
in casket

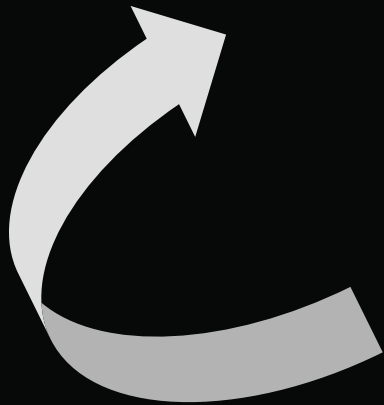


A fool in  
casket

Ecc 3:18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

## WISE = FOOLS

- Both share a common fate on happiness.
- Death happens to both.
- Both will eventually be forgotten.
- Both have the same end state, and are no better than a dead animal.



IF WORLDLY SUCCESS IS ALL THAT DEFINES YOU,  
THIS IS YOUR DEAL UNDER THE SUN.



Ecc 2:17 Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

The beginning of despair.

I HATE MY LIFE  
I HATE MY LIFE  
I HATE MY LIFE  
I **HATE** MY...

- The realization of the wise = fools has 3 affects on successful people whose hearts and affections are set on this world.
- Hate life because all the work that is done under the sun is grievous and yields disappointment rather than expected happiness
- “Grievous” is also translated as “evil” or “wicked.”

Ecc 2:18 Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me. (19) And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.



“Yea” → amplification of despair.

- Success takes time and hard work.
- After reaching the highest pitch of success, they soon realize their sun is setting and that they only have a small slice of time to enjoy the fruits of their labor before they must begin succession planning.
- Forced to surrender their wealth to others.
- No guarantee that the heirs will be good stewards.

Ecc 2:20 Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun. (21) For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil.

I am profoundly in the D's -  
discouraged, depressed,  
disheartened, disgusted.

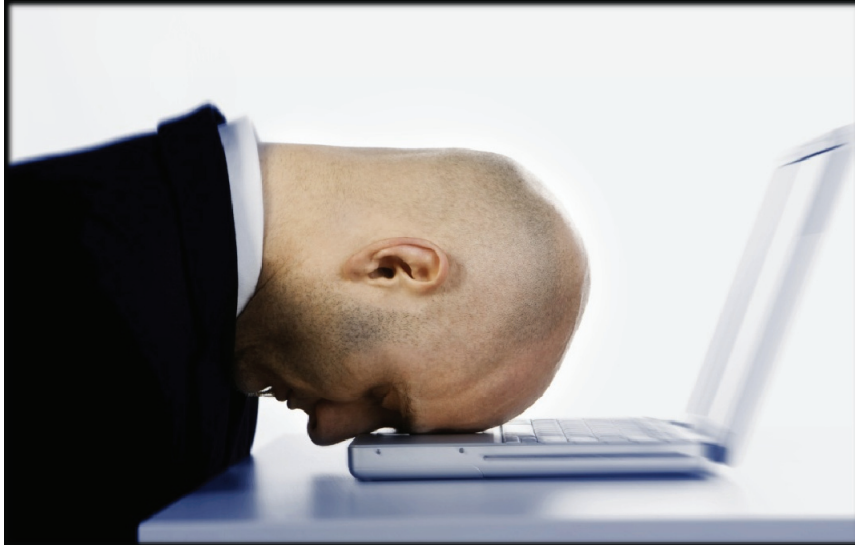
— Alice Dunbar Nelson —

- Finally, DISHEARTENED and DESPAIR because it seems so unfair that one should have toiled so hopelessly.
- To work so hard to acquire knowledge and skills and to ensure works are equitable and right, and then to be forced to surrender everything to people who are clueless about the business, is vanity and a great evil.



Ecc 2:22 For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun? (23) For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

What hopes are there for worldly minded people who toil under the sun?



- “All his days are sorrows” – Life under the sun is sorrowful because of sin, and work is a distressing four-letter word.
- “His travail grief” – Every business, occupation, task, or job is not just grievous, but is grief itself.
- “Yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night” – Say hello to restlessness and sleepless nights. “Yea” underscores this vexation.

Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

Ecc 2:24 There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God. (25) For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?



- Live for today.
- Enjoy the present.
- Repeat daily till death comes.
- (Wait a minute... That's what animals do; they live for today.)

Ecc 2:26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

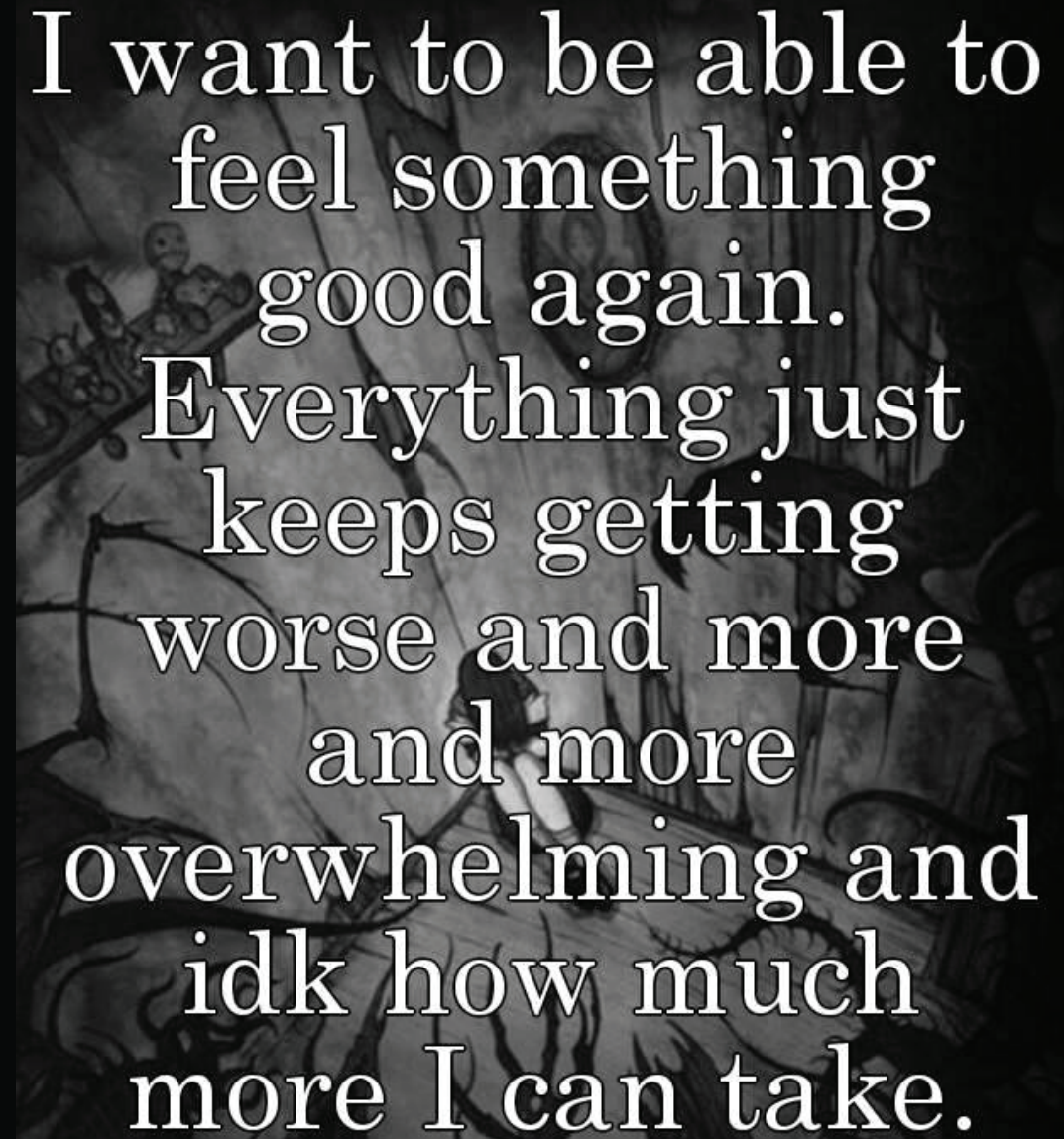


- God still gets the glory.
- Verse compares the blessings of those who are good in God's sight to the bad deal of sinners.
- When rich sinners despair of ever finding happiness, they are moved to donate their wealth to those who are good before God.  
**Pr 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.**
- It doesn't earn them any brownie points with God.

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.
- No help from worldly SUCCESS.

What are you going to do now for  
happiness?



I want to be able to  
feel something  
good again.  
Everything just  
keeps getting  
worse and more  
and more  
overwhelming and  
idk how much  
more I can take.



# You have been illuminated to these truths:

- There is nothing wrong with having a successful career and living a comfortable and enjoyable life in this world. God is not against you becoming successful. However, don't repeat the common mistake of pursuing a career and money before serving God.
- Be not worldly rich and spiritually poor. Making a living and serving God are not mutually exclusive. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, the Bible says He bought you with a price. It is unwise to call on Jesus to be your sin bearer as if He is a mule and not recognizing that He is your Lord, and that there will be a day of reckoning.
- If worldly success is all that defines me, I am no better than a dead fool at the end of life.
- Please submit your questions and feedback to [TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com](mailto:TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com)