

What do you really want?  
Deut 30:11-19  
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to address the question of “What do you really want?”

Intro: 1. Do you know what you really want in life?

2. What is really important?

a. The common answer is family is the most important thing.

b. I want my family to happy and healthy.

c. Where is God in the answer to this question?

I. What mankind often wants & searches to find.

A. The search for joy, gladness & pleasure in this world.

1. The writer says such pursuits were done in vain (**Ecc 2:1**)

a. “this also was vanity” means it this was meaningless, useless, and empty.

2. **Ecc 2:2** – pleasures from sin never last (**Heb 11:24-25**)

a. “laughter” a reference to the good times, while living in sin, did not last.

i. Laughter brought madness because the good times did not last.

b. Mirth – gladness seemed to last only for a moment as he next asks “what does it accomplish”

3. **Ecc 2:3a** – He tried to use wine to bring pleasure while claiming to retain his wisdom.

a. This sounds like some who try to justify social drinking, is not possible to sin “in moderation”, neither is it possible to sin while still being pleasing to God.

b. His list of attempts to bring happiness continues, obviously wine or anything mentioned previously did not bring fulfillment, so he attempts continue (**Ecc 2:3b-9**)

1. Notice everything mentioned is in the plural (houses, gardens, servants, etc).

i. He was wise enough to recognize these pursuits did not result in happiness, he did not try to fool himself by trying to tell himself he was happy.

ii. His reactions make it clear he still found no lasting happiness or fulfillment from such things.

iii. The prosperous farmer tried to convince himself that he was happy, only to find he was missing what was most important (**Lk 12:16-19,20-21**)

B. Few will realize fulfillment is not found in such ways.

1. He tried everything to fill his life, to make himself “happy” (**Ecc 2:10**)

a. He could do and have anything.

2. **Ecc 2:11a** – He looked on everything he had tried, which was a lot!

a. He says it was vanity, it was worthless, it accomplished nothing (**Ecc 2:11b**)

i. He would later turn to gain wisdom and other such things to attempt to bring himself happiness, but in the end the result was always the same (**Ecc 2:17**).

ii. He say the intense labor and stress so many had and says it was vanity; worthless, to no profit (**Ecc 2:22-23**)

## II. What God wants & searches to find.

### A. Those who seek Him (**Psalm 53:2**)

1. This is the proper response God wants from man (**Ps 27:7-8**)
2. The Lord wants those who seek Him (**1 Chron 28:9**)

### B. Those who make Him their top priority.

1. Those who seek Him, obey Him, and follow Him are those whom God blesses. (**Ps 119:10-11**)
2. God is either important to us or He's not, there is no in-between.

## III. Lessons for us today.

### A. There are dangers when mankind & God's desires to not align.

1. Our desires will not align with God when we choose unrighteousness, when we choose evil and death (**Deut 30:15,17-18**)
2. Sinful lifestyles always result in sin (**Rom 6:23**)

### B. There are blessings when mankind & God's desires align.

1. Our desires align when we choose godliness, when we choose life (**Deut 30:14-16**)
2. Our desires align with God when our desires follow the Bible standard for Christian living.

## Application & Conclusion:

1. So, the question remains, what do you really want?
  - a. Is it to follow God or follow self?
2. **Deut 30:19-20a**
3. Full Invitation

### Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

### Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9