

Surpassing Pleasures

We have a God given desire for Pleasure. (food, entertainment, recreation) Why?

Passing Pleasures of Sin (Heb 11:25): end in loneliness, fear, shame, bondage

obvious ones (1 Jn 2:16): lusts, possessions, prides (serpent in garden, Jesus in wilderness)

less obvious: pride of attention - complaining, gossip, self pity, victimization

Benign Pleasures: can be made Spiritual by including Him, Sinful by excess (focus)

(1Ti 6:10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

(Pr 10:22) The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

issue is Focus, Priority, Heart

Surpassing Pleasures: Prioritizing **Delight** in Him (Ps 37:4)

Competing Pleasures: Do we really believe His are Surpassing? (Billy Joel)

Problem of Boredom and Impatience - Passing Pleasures immediately satisfy

(Dt 28:47-48 captivity) ⁴⁷“Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, ⁴⁸“therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

(Je 2:13 false gods) For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. (satisfaction issue)

Pursuing Surpassing Pleasures: His intent it to Satisfy our desire for Pleasure (Jn 15:11)

(Ps 16:11) You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand (Eph 1:20 in Him) are pleasures forevermore.

path: get Him here (worship) or get in Him (prayer) - Joy and Pleasure

(Ps 36:7-8) ⁷How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. ⁸They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.

Revelation of His Love leads to Experience of His Fullness (Eph 3:17-19)

We learn to Enjoy Him as we Experience Him Enjoying us.

(Song 1:2, 4) ²Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth for your love is better than wine.

⁴Draw me away! We will run after you. The king has brought me into his chambers. We will be glad and rejoice in you. We will remember your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you.

(Song 4:8-16) ⁸Come with me...⁹you have ravished my heart, my sister, my spouse; you have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes...¹⁰How much better than wine is your love...¹²A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse, a spring shut up, a fountain sealed...¹⁵a fountain of gardens, a well of living waters...¹⁶Let my beloved come to his garden and eat its pleasant fruits.

We aren't dealing with our heart issues to impress Him,

we are Cultivating our Inner Garden He Delights to Dwell in!

We aren't just denying the passing pleasures of sin (tedious),

we are Pursuing Surpassing Pleasures in Him!