



the PURSUIT of  
**HAPPY**NESS

**Ecclesiastes 6**



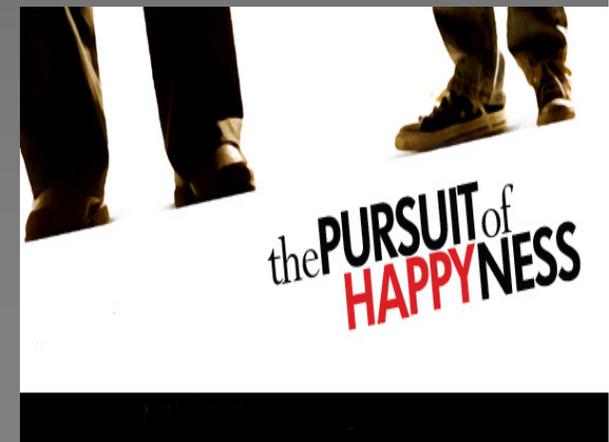
When you get down to bare basics, what does everyone want?

Chapter 5 ended with the point that not only does God allow people to prosper but God also gives the ability to enjoy the fruits of our labors.

**<sup>19</sup> Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. <sup>20</sup> They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.**

**Ecc 5**

So how do we stay occupied with the gladness of our heart...Solomon tells us in chapter 6



I. Enjoy the blessings of this  
life (6:1-6).

## A. A Great and Common Evil

**<sup>1</sup> There is an evil which I have seen under the sun,  
and it *is* common among men: *Eccl 6***

### **Riches Wealth and Honor...**

**<sup>2</sup> A man to whom God has given  
riches and wealth and honor, so  
that he lacks nothing for himself of  
all he desires;**

**yet God does not give him **power to  
eat of it...** *Eccl 6***

**-What keeps us from being able to  
enjoy God's good gifts???**



**A. A Great and Common Evil**

**B. What keeps us from enjoying God's gifts???**

**1. The Prosperity Test**

**Joseph - Could have let prosperity take him anywhere**

**Into the arms of another mans wife**

**Into the depths of harsh revenge**

**Deeply engrained into Egyptian culture**

**Away from God**



## A. A Great and Common Evil

## B. What keeps us from enjoying God's gifts???

### 1. The Prosperity Test- Luke 12:15-21

- Possessed by possessions (Luke 12:15)
- Plans without the Planner (Luke 12:16-19)
- Future time verses eternity (Luke 12:20)

“So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, **and is not rich towards God.**” (Luke 12:21)



## A. A Great and Common Evil

## B. What keeps us from enjoying God's gifts???

### 1. The Prosperity Test

### 2. True Satisfaction

#### - Would Living 2000 Years Bring Me True Satisfaction?

<sup>3</sup> If a man begets a hundred *children* and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say *that* a stillborn child *is* better than he—

<sup>6</sup> even if he lives a thousand years twice—but has not seen goodness.

**Do not all go to one place?**

*Eccl 6*

True Satisfaction comes from the goodness of God and being with Him





II. Accept the limitations of  
this life (6:7-9).

**A. No matter how much we have or how hard we work, ultimately.... it is only so we can eat**

**<sup>7</sup> All the labor of man is **for his mouth**, And yet the soul is not satisfied. **Eccl 6****

**1. Physical things can only satisfy physical appetites**

**<sup>8</sup> And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. *1 Tim 6***





**A. No matter how much we have or how hard we work, ultimately.... it is only so we can eat**

**B. We All Need Something More Than This**

**<sup>7</sup> All the labor of man is **for his mouth**, And yet the soul is not satisfied. Eccl 6**

**<sup>8</sup> For what more has the wise *man* than the fool?**

**What does the poor man have, **Who knows *how* to walk before the living?** Eccl 6**

**<sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and **loses his own soul?** *Mark 8***



**A. No matter how much we have or how hard we work, ultimately.... it is only so we can eat**

**B. We All Need Something More Than This**

**C. We Can Accept Life's Limitations And Be Happier Than We Ever Have**

**<sup>9</sup> Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire.**

**This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.**

**Eccl 6**

**“A bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush”**

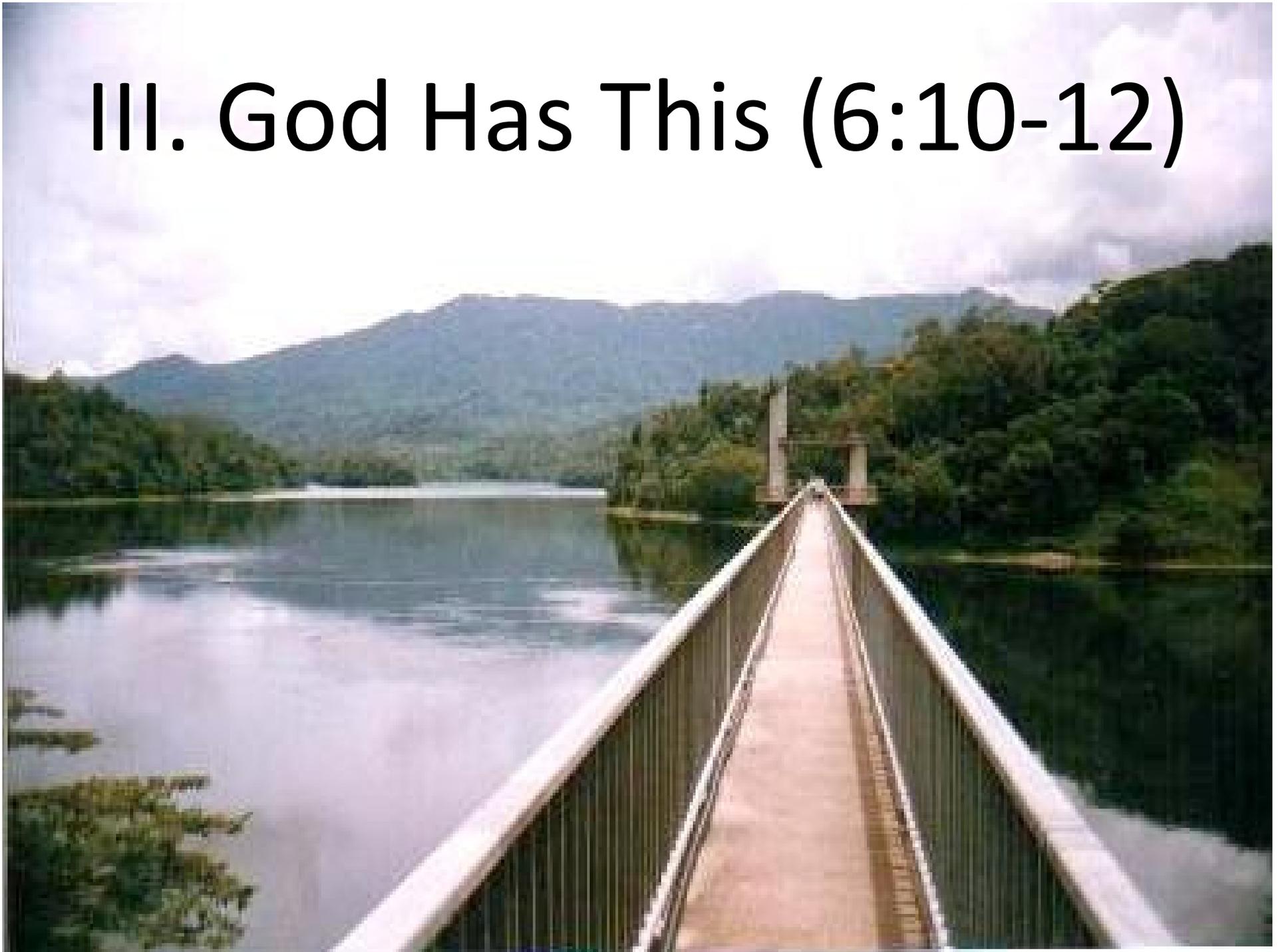
**Instead of thinking, “I can’t wait until.....”, why don’t we say \_\_\_\_\_**



A person in a green shirt and dark pants stands on a large, dark, curved structure, possibly a ship's hull or a large piece of machinery, looking out over the ocean under a blue sky. The structure is dark and has a curved, almost cylindrical shape. The person is standing on a flat surface at the top of the structure. The ocean is visible in the foreground, and the sky is a clear blue with some light clouds. The text is overlaid on the lower right portion of the image.

**From the world's perspective,  
contentment is almost always  
something that comes in the future.  
But the contentment God wants to  
give us is for the past, present, and  
future**

# III. God Has This (6:10-12)



## **A. I Know Who You Are...I Named You**

**<sup>10</sup> Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he *is* man;**

## **B. I Know What You Are....I'm Stronger Than You**

**And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he.**

## **C. I Know What's Good For You...I Made You**

**<sup>12</sup> For who knows what *is* good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow?**

## **D. I Know What's Next...I Prepared A Place For You**

**Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?**



# the PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS

<sup>1</sup> “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also

*John 14*