

# No Other gods

## Session Two: The god of PLEASURE (Hedonism)

Dusty Davis



*“You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.” (v.1-2) - 2 Timothy 3:1*

*“...and they will **love pleasure rather than God.**” - 2 Timothy 3:4*

**Philedonos:** Phileo (to be actively fond of, or love) + HEDONE (sensual delight, lust or pleasure)....it's where we get the English word for HEDONISM.

**Hedonism:** The doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good; addiction to and obsession for pleasure as a way of life.

The anthem for those pursuing pleasure: **If it \_\_\_\_\_ good, go for it!**

When good things become gods...all of their promises turn to ash. The pleasure sex promised to bring (when entered into according to God's design) evaporates when we remake the rules....

**Sex makes a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ but a terrible \_\_\_\_\_.**

**When we pursue any pleasure \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, eventually we'll pursue it \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord.**

*“I said to myself, “Come on, let's try **pleasure.** Let's look for the '**good things**' in life.” - Ecclesiastes 2:1*

Of all the lies culture is currently spinning, one of the most deadly (and common) is that: **The \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ we all desire...all lie WITHIN US.**

*“Two are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the can reach out and help. **But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.**” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

Solomon, like far too many men looked *within* for answers only Christ can provide:

**He let his \_\_\_\_\_ guide his \_\_\_\_\_,**

**He allowed his \_\_\_\_\_ to make his \_\_\_\_\_,**

**He looked to his \_\_\_\_\_ to provide his life's \_\_\_\_\_.**

It is not \_\_\_\_\_ we pursue that reveals our deepens needs and hurts,  
but rather \_\_\_\_\_ we pursue them, that does.

*"I searched with my heart **how to cheer my body with wine...**" - Ecclesiastes 2:3*

*"Wine is a **mock**er, strong drink a **br**wler, and whoever is led astray by them **is not wise.**" - Proverbs 20:1*

Why would we expect something that won't last, to provide joy and fulfillment that will?  
**Pleasure promises more than it will ever \_\_\_\_\_, more than it can ever \_\_\_\_\_.**

How will we know when our pursuit of pleasure has gone off course?

- **When the things we are enjoying are \_\_\_\_\_ by God.**
- **When our desire for the \_\_\_\_\_ is greater than our desire for God.**
- **When we enjoy the thing, without giving God \_\_\_\_\_ for it.**
- **When our desires come from a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.**
- **When the loss of pleasure leads me to question the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

As God's Men, let's pursue lasting pleasures like the pleasure of:

- God's PRESENCE (Psalms 16:11, 27:4, 46:4)
- Hearing God in His WORD (Psalms 19:7-10, 119:14-16, Jeremiah 15:16)
- True UNITY with Other BELIEVERS (Psalms 133, Acts 2:42-47)
- INTIMACY with God (Psalms 16:5-6, 8-9, 63:1-8, John 15:1-11)
- A Life ALIGNED with THE WAY of God (Mathew 5:2-12)
- GENEROSITY (Luke 6:38, Acts 20:35)
- PARTNERING With God in His MISSION (Luke 10:17, 2 Corinthians 5:16-6:10)

### **Discussion and Reflection:**

As you consider the "lesser gods" that are calling to your heart, consider the following:

- **Where do you turn FIRST when life gets hard?**
- **What's your first stop to feel COMFORTED?**
- **When you're STRESSED, where do you go?**

The god of pleasure promises satisfaction, but never delivers. The enemy of our souls takes God's good gifts, twists them and sells us a lesser version of them. He tells us that sex can exist outside of marriage, apart from God's design and that it will deliver satisfaction that lasts. The end result? Separation, shame and destruction. **Where in your life, are you tolerating sexual sin? What steps will you take today to be free of it?**