

Eccl 1:2

Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

The Olympic speed skater Joey Cheek had been an extremely focused individual from his youth. With a keen desire to be a championship skater he trained and trained hard. As he continued to excel at his sport, skating six to seven hours a day six days a week, he rapidly advanced in speed skating winning numerous medals as a junior skater and then competing at the senior level. After twelve years of training he finally earned a chance to compete at the event he dreamt of.....the 2002 Olympics. After experiencing the joy of winning the bronze medal Joey comments, *“But I was shocked to find it didn’t mean anything. In fact, the one thought I had was, This is it?”* Many a man and woman have experienced this very same thought. After chasing their dreams of youth, excelling in a sport or occupation, winning the accolades of fellow peers, gaining financial security and wealth, obtaining fame.....and the list could go on and on, however, the thought is so many times the same as this young speed skaters... *“This is it?”* The writer of Ecclesiastes also obtained his dreams and desires. He wrote in Eccl 2:4-11, ***I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.*** He had everything his heart and eyes desired, yet after obtaining and satisfying all of his personal desires let us hear his words..... ***“All was vanity and vexation of spirit.”*** In other

words all was emptiness and insufficient of itself. He was left unsatisfied and unfulfilled in his heart which left his spirit or soul discontented.

Yes, this is true for every man, woman, boy or girl born into this world. We are born with a void in our hearts and souls that only the Lord can fill. He is the only One who can bring contentness and satisfaction to the hearts of mankind. Hear the words of Jesus Christ in John 17:1-3, ***These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.***