

c. Amusements

"A good time was had by all" is not a wicked thought or report but a large segment of society tries to find its fulfillment in such good times. There is plenty of evidence all about us as to how our age thinks in this area but we may be surprised to know that it is not a new thought. (What is "new", under the sun?") There is some palliative advantage in "fun" but the ability of it to make a lifelong contribution is mighty restricted.

ScripturesObservations

1:17	No matter how spirited the event, it gives no lasting satisfaction to assuage the ills of man. The writer tried these things while continuing to exercise wisdom and found that they did not meet the life need. He was still left <i>morose and unhappy</i> after the best of times. Do we think he was expecting too much? No...the heartbeat of every generation is to find the fulfillment and satisfaction of a life lived with permanency. But it obviously cannot be found in "good times."
2:1-3	
6:1-2	
7:2-4	
11:9-10	

d. Personal achievement

There is something good about hearing your name on the lips of others (when they are speaking well of it) or in having the knowledge that you are held in high regard by somebody for something (rather general, I fear). Some of us only hope our families will find us important while others carry the idea to the world of their employment or maybe the whole world! And some succeed in this sort of fame...or infamy as the case may be. But what does personal achievement contribute to the great needs of life?

ScriptureObservations

2:15-16	Like it or not, no matter who you are, your status is soon meaningless and, in most cases, "out of sight, out of mind." Your fame may be brushed aside or another may manage to take credit for your works. Your gravestone may be covered with weeds and in a short time not be visible to those walk in the cemetery. If the personal achievement has others in mind there may be more personal good but that which is taken simply for yourself is not in the better interest of making life what you want it to be.
3:18-20	
6:3	
9:11-12	