

## How Freedom Leads to Happiness or Hinderance

March 5, 2023

*1 Kings 10:6-9a, NIV – [The Queen of Sheba] said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel.”*

*Deuteronomy 28:1, 10, NLT – If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world... Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the Lord, and they will stand in awe of you.*

### Five Life Lessons on Folly: Solomon Shows Us...

1. Change comes in \_\_\_\_\_ before making \_\_\_\_\_

*Main Passage: 1 Kings 11:1-10, NLT*

Why did Solomon (and why do I) insist on choosing foolishness over wisdom? Well, Solomon tells us...

*Ecclesiastes 2:1, 3-11, NLT*

2. \_\_\_\_\_ does not deliver \_\_\_\_\_

*Philippians 3:19, LB – Their future is eternal loss, for their god is their appetite: they are proud of what they should be ashamed of; and all they think about is this life here on earth.*

3. Pursuing our passions never ends in \_\_\_\_\_

*Ecclesiastes 2:8b,10-11, NLT – I had everything a man could desire! ... Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure... But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.*

*1 Peter 2:16, NIV – Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil.*

4. “Unrestrained freedom” moves me from \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Kings 3:3a, ESV – Solomon loved the Lord...*

*1 Kings 11:2b, ESV – Solomon clung to these (his wives) in love.*

5. Honoring God’s Word brings me the most \_\_\_\_\_

*Ecclesiastes 12:13, ICB – Here is my final advice: Honor God and obey his commands. This is the most important thing people can do.*

*Happiness does not come from \_\_\_\_\_ (living for yourself)*

*Happiness comes from \_\_\_\_\_ (living for the glory of God and the service of others)*

*Philippians 1:21, NIV – For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

How would you fill in the blank? For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_.