



Main Point: In this life enjoy God's gift of joy in the ordinary

- 1) Joy in our Work
- 2) Joy in the Ever-Changing Times of Life
- 3) Joy in Embracing our Creatureliness

The message here is twofold. God is the One who gives things, and God is the One who gives the power to enjoy things. These are distinct gifts ... just as a can of peaches and a can-opener are distinct gifts. Only the first is given to the unbeliever. The believer is given both, which is simply another way of saying that he is given the capacity for enjoyment.

Doug Wilson

The possibility of enjoyment returns, significantly, only when the quest for profit is given up altogether (2:22-23), and replaced by the notion of gift. Opportunities to eat, drink and find satisfaction in one's work, when they come, are not human achievements but divine gifts, and are to be enjoyed as such.

Barry Webb

"Sanctification does not depend so much on changing our activities as it does on doing them for God rather than ourselves. Our actions should unite us to God when we are in our daily activities just as our prayers unite us to him in our private devotions."

Brother Lawrence

"Everybody wants to save the world, but nobody wants to help mom with the dishes."

P.J. O'Rourke.

Chapters (Seasons) are divided by various things- age, strength, singleness, marriage, employment, children at home, children in college, grandchildren, etc. No chapter has all the joys. Finite life is a series of trade-offs. Finding God's will and living for the glory of Christ to the gull in every chapter is what makes it a success, not whether it reads like somebody else's chapter or whether it has in it what only another chapter will bring.

John Piper



The great privilege of man is to receive everything that God gives in all the ways that he gives it, and then to know it and enjoy it and delight in it and sing about it, and to know **him** in it and to enjoy **him** in it and to sing about **him** in it.

Joe Rigney, *Things of the Earth*

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probably explanation is that I was made for another world.”

CS Lewis

Matthew 6:26-34

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”