

## STUDY #2: Ecc. 2: 1-26 What is Hedonism?

### PURSUING OUR SHORT-TERM SELF-INTEREST OR

**he.don.ism** (From Hedonism.com)  
the pursuit of pleasure; sensual self-indulgence.  
synonyms: self-indulgence, pleasure-seeking, self-gratification  
the ethical theory that pleasure (in the sense of the satisfaction of desires) is the highest good and proper aim of human life.

Hedonism II is the world's most iconic adult playground. An all-inclusive paradise where you can turn your fantasies into reality! Experience what you only read about in erotic novels and let loose!  
Be as mild or as wild as you like!

People travel to Hedonism II from all corners of the world to live out their fantasies, to escape their inhibitions, to play. Life is too short. Do it now, before later becomes never. *Your Pleasure Is Our Passion!*

#### HEDONISM II RESORT

Hedonism II breaks the boundaries of other Lifestyle-friendly, clothing optional resorts. Here, there's never too much of a good thing. People travel from far and wide to live out their fantasies and escape their inhibitions. Leave the mundane day-to-day behind; explore yourself as you explore the sensual and liberating environment of Hedonism II Negril, Jamaica. Decide on a [clothing optional resort](#) or [nude vacation](#) and be no one but your beautiful self. At our resort you can:

- Sleep in and stay up late.
- Give up counting calories.
- Have a drink before noon.
- Dine in shorts.
- Talk to strangers.
- Don't make your bed.
- Go skinny dipping.
- Don't call your mother.
- Let your hair down.

Hedonism II is a sandbox for your inner child, and nourishment for the mind, body, spirit, and soul. With absolutely everything included in one upfront price, you never have to think about money—not even tips—just what to do next...And, if you desire – with whom!

## What Is Christian Hedonism? -John Piper

### PURSUING OUR LONG-TERM SELF-INTEREST

My shortest summary of [Christian Hedonism](#) is: *God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.*

We all make a god out of what we take the most pleasure in. Christian Hedonists want to make God their God by seeking after the greatest pleasure—pleasure in him.

By Christian Hedonism, we do not mean that our happiness is the highest good. We mean that pursuing the highest good will always result in our greatest happiness in the end. We should pursue this happiness, and pursue it with all our might. The desire to be happy is a proper motive for every good deed, and *if you abandon the pursuit of your own joy, you cannot love man or please God.*

#### Difference between Worldly and Christian Hedonism

Some people are inclined to believe that Christians are supposed to seek God's will as opposed to pursuing their own pleasure. But what makes biblical morality different than worldly hedonism is not that biblical morality is disinterested and duty-driven, but that it is interested in vastly greater and purer things. Christian Hedonism is biblical morality because it recognizes that *obeying God is the only route to final and lasting happiness.* Here are some examples of this from the Bible:

[Luke 6:35](#) says, "Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great." It is clear when Jesus says "expect nothing in return" that we should not be motivated by worldly aggrandizement, but *we are given strength to suffer loss by the promise of a future reward.*

Again, in [Luke 14:12-14](#): "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor . . . and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." That is, *don't do good deeds for worldly advantage; rather, do them for spiritual, heavenly benefits.*

## Should Duty Be Our Main Motivation?

But some will say, “No, no. These texts only describe what reward will result if you act disinterestedly. They do not teach us to actually seek the reward.”

Two answers to this objection:

1) It would be foolish to say, “If you take this pill, I’ll give you a nickel,” if you expect the desire for the nickel to ruin the pill. But Jesus was not foolish. He would not offer blessing to those who obey him and then hold it against us if these blessings motivated our obedience.

2) Even more importantly, *there are texts that not only commend that we do good in the hope of future blessing, but command it.*

[Luke 12:33](#) says, “Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail.” The connection here between alms and having eternal treasure in heaven is not a chance result — it is the explicit purpose: “Make it your aim to have treasure in heaven, and the way to do this is to sell your possessions and give alms.”

And again, [Luke 16:9](#) says, “Make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into eternal habitations.” Luke does not say that the result of using possessions properly is to receive eternal habitations. He says, “Make it your aim to secure an eternal habitation by the way you use your possessions.”

*Therefore, a resounding NO to the belief that morality should be inspired more by duty than delight.*

## Don’t Be Too Easily Satisfied

[Hebrews 11:6](#) teaches, “Without faith it is impossible to please [God]. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” *You cannot please God if you do not come to him looking for reward.* Therefore, faith that pleases God is the hedonistic pursuit of God. As Christian Hedonists we know that *everyone longs for happiness. And we will never tell them to deny or repress that desire.* It is never a problem to want to be

satisfied. The problem is being satisfied too easily. We believe that everyone who longs for satisfaction should no longer seek it from money or power or lust, but should come glut their soul-hunger on the grace of God. We will bend all our effort, by the Holy Spirit, to persuade people

- that they can be happier in giving than receiving ([Acts 20:35](#));
- that they should count everything as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus their Lord ([Philippians 3:8](#));
- that the aim of all of Jesus’s commandments is that their joy be full ([John 15:11](#));
- that if they delight themselves in the Lord he will give them the desire of their heart ([Psalm 37:4](#));
- that there is great gain in godliness with contentment ([1 Timothy 6:6](#));
- and that the joy of the Lord is their strength ([Nehemiah 8:10](#)).

We will not try to motivate anyone with appeals to mere duty. We will tell them that in God’s presence is full and lasting joy ([Psalm 16:11](#)) and *our only duty is to come to him, seeking this pleasure.*

## The Weight of Glory –C. S. Lewis

*If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*

## The Language of Hedonism is Everywhere in Scripture

In God’s presence, says [Psalm 16:11](#), “there is fullness of joy; at [his] right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

**JESUS' PARABLE (Luke 15) contrasts the  
PURSUIT OF FUN with the FINDING OF FULFILLMENT**

**THE PRODIGAL SON**

**AND**

**THE SEARCHING FATHER**

**I Can't Get No Satisfaction**

[The Rolling Stones](#)

Songwriters: Keith Richards / Mick Jagger

I can't get no satisfaction, I can't get no satisfaction  
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try  
I can't get no, I can't get no

When I'm drivin' in my car, and the man come on the  
radio  
He's tellin' me more and more about some useless  
information

Supposed to fire my imagination  
I can't get no, oh, no, no, no, hey, hey, hey  
That's what I say  
I can't get no satisfaction, I can't get no satisfaction  
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try  
I can't get no, I can't get no

When I'm watchin' my tv and a man comes on and tell  
me  
How white my shirts can be  
But, he can't be a man 'cause he doesn't smoke  
The same cigarettes as me

I can't get no, oh, no, no, no, hey, hey, hey  
That's what I say  
I can't get no satisfaction, I can't get girl reaction  
'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try  
I can't get no, I can't get no

When I'm ridin' round the world  
And I'm doin' this and I'm signin' that  
And I'm tryin' to make some girl, who tells me  
Baby, better come back maybe next week  
Can't you see I'm on a losing streak

I can't get no, oh, no, no, no, hey, hey, hey  
That's what I say, I can't get no, I can't get no  
I can't get no satisfaction, no satisfaction  
No satisfaction, no satisfaction

**Never Too Far Gone**

[Jordan Feliz](#)

Colby Wedgeworth / Jason Ingram / Jordan Feliz

I have loved you from the start  
I have seen your hurting heart (your hurting heart)  
And you feel so lonely, but you keep on hiding  
'Cause you feel so guilty for what you've done, but  
There's no distance too far, that I can't reach you  
There's no place that's so dark, that I can't find you  
Anywhere that you are, if you need proof  
Take a look at these scars, and know I love you  
Doesn't matter, doesn't matter, doesn't matter what  
you've done  
You are never, you are never, never too far gone  
Oh ah-oh, ah-oh

You have run down every road  
And you've lost your way back home (your way back  
home)  
And you feel so dirty; you know you're unworthy  
Feeling undeserving of any love, but  
There's no distance too far, that I can't reach you  
There's no place that's so dark, that I can't find you  
Anywhere that you are, if you need proof  
Take a look at these scars, and know I love you  
Doesn't matter, doesn't matter, doesn't matter what  
you've done  
You are never, you are never, never too far gone  
Oh ah-oh, ah-oh

You will never outrun my love, my love, my love  
You will never outrun my love, my love, my love  
You will never outrun my love, my love, my love  
You will never outrun my love (you will never outrun my  
love)  
There's no distance too far, that I can't reach you  
There's no place that's so dark, that I can't find you  
Anywhere that you are, if you need proof  
Take a look at these scars, and know I love you  
Doesn't matter, doesn't matter, doesn't matter what  
you've done  
You are never, you are never, never too far gone  
Oh ah-oh, ah-oh  
Never too far gone, Oh ah-oh, ah-oh  
Never too far gone, Oh ah-oh, ah-oh