

Reading Ecclesiastes

Vanity of Vanities?

Smoky Hill church of Christ

FALL
2023

6. WHAT IS GOOD? (7.1-13)

LOOKING BACKWARDS, LOOKING FORWARDS:

What is Good?

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“This is Good”

ECCLESIASTES 5.18-20

THE GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL

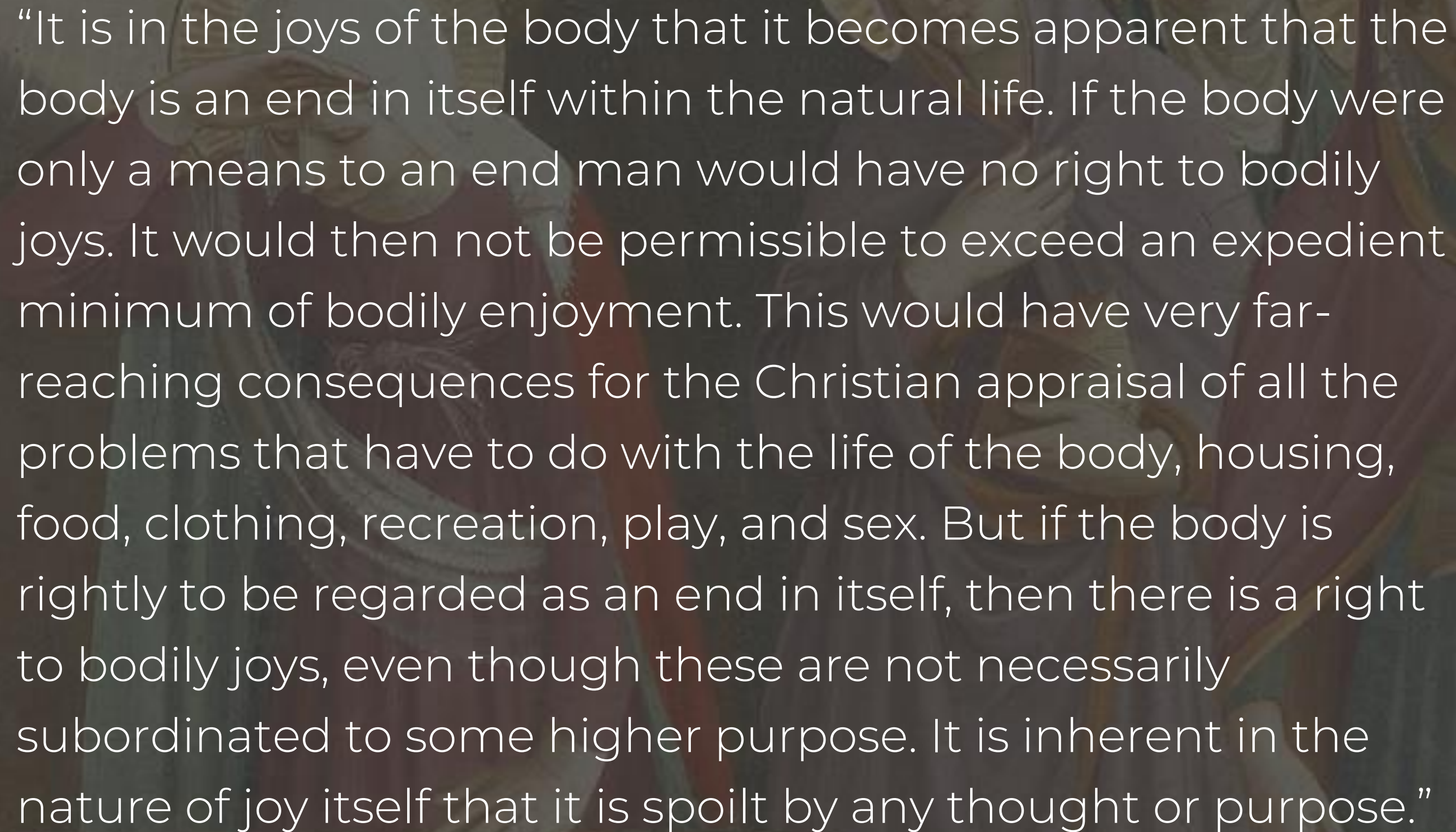
Not just “better”! But still limited by sight.

GOD BUSIES THEM WITH JOY

cf. Eccl 2.1, 10, 26; 5.20; 8.15; 9.7

A PICTURE OF COMMUNION

Dtr 12.5-7; Jer 31.10-14



“It is in the joys of the body that it becomes apparent that the body is an end in itself within the natural life. If the body were only a means to an end man would have no right to bodily joys. It would then not be permissible to exceed an expedient minimum of bodily enjoyment. This would have very far-reaching consequences for the Christian appraisal of all the problems that have to do with the life of the body, housing, food, clothing, recreation, play, and sex. But if the body is rightly to be regarded as an end in itself, then there is a right to bodily joys, even though these are not necessarily subordinated to some higher purpose. It is inherent in the nature of joy itself that it is spoilt by any thought or purpose.”

Bonhoeffer, *Ethics* 113.

THINKING ABOUT THE BODY: 1 CORINTHIANS 15

“If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead....”



Death and Dying (7.1–4)

A GOOD NAME (7.1)

Prv 22.1... but (Ecl 3.18–21; 4.2–4; 6.1–6)

MOURNING (7.2–3)

Psa 126.2; Prv 10.23; 14.13

HEART OF THE WISE (7.4)

Do we think these things are true?





The Wise and the Fool (Eccl 7.5–7)

TO HEAR **REBUKE**

A Wordplay and a Saying

MONEY **CORRUPTS**

How does oppression corrupt?

In the End

ECCLESIASTES 7.8-13

THE END

Ecc1 7.8-9

THE FORMER DAYS

Ecc1 7.10 (cf. 1.8-11; 3.1-8)

WISDOM IS GOOD

Ecc1 7.11-12 (cf. 6.12)

THE WORK OF GOD

Ecc1 7.13 (cf. 1.15)

ANOTHER QUESTION:

Who?

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READ

Ecclesiastes 7.1–13



QUESTIONS

- 1) Should we limit our righteousness? How does 7.15–29 fit?
- 2) What does wisdom dictate in the face of power (8.1–9)?
- 3) Does our righteousness matter?
- 4) What can be observed and what conclusions does he draw from this (8.17)?



Next Class

7. WHAT GOOD IS WISDOM? (7.14–8.17)