

## Hating Life

"Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit."  
Ecclesiastes 2:17

Solomon ran an experiment. Because he was richly endowed with wealth, power, and a keen intellect, he dedicated himself to the task of seeking purpose/meaning/significance from them. The result of the experiment is recorded in this book of Ecclesiastes, which he wrote.

**Affluence and success destroy hope and produce despair.** When a man lacks that for which he hopes, he is motivated to obtain it. But what does a man do once his hope is fulfilled? This is clearly seen in our society: never have we had so much and been so angry and ungrateful. People who live in the top 10% of the world, in terms of material success, riot, burn, and pillage simply because their expectations are not met. They are not content with what they have.

Most men with whom I work freely admit that they are materially better off than they ever dreamed they would be when beginning. Yet if they do not hope in the eternal promises of God they will end as Solomon, hating life. By His grace, God has ordained that this life cannot satisfy. **When you place your hope in what the world defines as success, you enter the path of self-destruction.**