 **Lesson 9**

Not Just a Consumer

*Ecclesiastes 5:8-20*

We're entrenched in a consumer culture, constantly playing the role of customers. In Ecclesiastes 5, the Preacher confronts this mindset. When our lives revolve around wealth and comfort, we rob ourselves of true joy and contentment. As we explore this passage, the Preacher challenges us to savor life rather than just consume it. **Consume life less; enjoy life more**.

**Consumerism plays politics (vs. 8-9).**

* Politics take advantage of others (v. 8a).
* Politicians protect themselves (v. 8b).
* Politics are a necessary evil (v. 9).

*Other Notes:*

**Consumerism follows the money (vs. 10-12).**

* Wealth is dissatisfying (v. 10).
* Wealth is disingenuous (v. 11).
* Wealth is disturbing (v. 12).

*Other Notes:*

**Consumerism can slip through your fingers (vs. 13-17)**

* Hoarding sometimes hurts (v. 13).
* Savings sometimes vanish ( v. 14).
* Success sometimes fails (v. 15).
* Work is sometimes wasted (v. 16).
* Riches sometimes bring loneliness (v. 17).

*Other Notes:*

**Consuming can only be fulfilling with Godly gratitude (vs. 18-20).**

* God-given enjoyments are appropriate (v. 18a).
* God-given possessions are a stewardship (v. 18b).
* God-given opportunities are a gift (v. 19).
* God-given activities are a joy (v. 20).

*Other Notes:*

**Prayer**

**Scripture**: For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

1 Timothy 4:4-5

**College Student of the Night: Jack Elms**

* Senior at Cedarville
* Prayer Requests:

**Single Focus/Cross Impact Requests:**

* Cross Impact IUPUI, Purdue, Ball State, and UIndy
* Potential at IU, Marion, and Butler
* Single Focus (Connect, Grow, Serve)
* Sunday Soul-Winning Efforts

**Specific Requests:**

* Jack Elms, Kendall Elms, Jesiah Achenbach, and Max Garcia in military training/service
* Joseph LaPointe’s back and spirit
* Jessica’s Unsaved friend in Mormonism
* Sarah’s family’s salvation
* Aaron Bott and family- Soldier in Kuwait (Joe Forti’s friend)
* Ian’s unsaved family
* Julia as she lost her baby and is recovering from it all (Hau’s friend and co-worker).
* James as he recovers from his diabetic episode (Hau’s friend).
* Elizabeth’s coworker, Karen, who is recovering from surgery and needs to have strong recovery.
* Jessi Gold’s search for an internship.

**Announcements:**

* March 12- Top Golf
* July 19-21- Kenosha Missions Trip Signup





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**Order of Service for Tonight:**

* **Opening Game**: Marching Through March
* **Announcements**:
* **Songs**:
  + Almighty Father (page 13)
  + Almighty, Unchangeable God (pages 14-15)
* **Prayer**:
* **Message**: Pastor Andy