

ECCLESIASTES

Ecccl. 8:10-17



Eccl. 8:10 And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this *is* also vanity.

11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong *his* days, *which are* as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

14 There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just *men*, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked *men*, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also *is* vanity.

15 Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing **under the sun**, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.

16 When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also *there is that* neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)

17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done **under the sun**: because though a man labour to seek *it* out, yet he shall not find *it*; yea further; though a wise *man* think to know *it*, yet shall he not be able to find *it*.

This evening, we continue on a wonderful, spiritual journey through the Book of Ecclesiastes, known also as “The Preacher.”

I. THE PREACHER’S SUBJECT, 1:1-11

- A. The Preacher, 1:1
- B. The Problem, 1:2-3
- C. The Process, 1:4-11

II. THE PREACHER’S SERMON, 1:12-10:20

- A. Things He Had Sought, 1:12—2:26
- B. Things He Had Seen, 3:1—6:12
- C. Things He Had Studied, 7:1-10:20
 - 1. Life’s Frustrations, 7:1-29
 - 2. Life’s Fallacies, 8:1-17
 - a. The Fiction About Being Great, 8:1-9
 - (1) King Solomon and His Wisdom, 8:1
 - (a) The Challenge, 8:1a
 - (b) The Change, 8:1b

(2) King Solomon and His Word, 8:2-5

(a) A Word of Counsel, 8:2

(b) A Word of Caution, 8:3-4

i. The King's Presence, 8:3a "Be not hasty to go out of his sight..."

ii. The King's Perception, 8:3b "...stand not in an evil thing..."

iii. The King's Prerogative, 8:3c "... for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him."

iv. The King's Power, 8:4

(c) A Word of Command, 8:5

i. Protection Available, 8:5a "Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing..."

ii. Prudence Advisable, 8:5b "...and **a wise man's heart discerneth** both time and judgment."

(3) King Solomon and His Wickedness, 8:6-9

(a) His Logic, 8:6

(b) His Limitations, 8:7-8

i. A Future He Cannot Discern, 8:7

ii. A Funeral He Cannot Defy, 8:8

(c) His Lesson, 8:9

- When thoughts drift toward confusion and lack of understanding, discipline is needed to walk by faith, and trust God to be righteous in all of His doings.

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 **Casting down imaginations**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

2 Cor. 5:7 (For **we walk by faith**, not by sight:)

b. The Folly About Being Godless, 8:10-13

(1) The Fate of the Wicked Man, 8:10

(a) His Funeral: The Burial of the Man, 8:10a “And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy...”

- Perhaps Solomon was imagining his own funeral, convicted of his religious hypocrisy.

(b) His Fame: The Burial of His Memory, 8:10b “...and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this *is* also vanity.”

- Even famous people fade into oblivion after death – the inevitability of vanity.

(2) The Foolishness of the Wicked Man, 8:11

(a) The Reason for His Folly, 8:11a “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily...”

“Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small;
Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness grinds He all.”

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/255749-though-the-mills-of-god-grind-slowly-yet-they-grind>

(b) The Result of His Folly, 8:11b “...therefore **the heart** of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

Gang member carries out three shootings after being freed without bail:

<https://nypost.com/2020/08/05/gang-member-carries-out-3-shootings-after-being-freed-without-bail/>

August 5, 2020

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart with all diligence**; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Jer. 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked**: who can know it?

Mt. 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth **come forth from the heart**; and they defile the man.

19 For **out of the heart proceed** evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

(3) The Future of the Wicked Man, 8:12-13

(a) His Continual Wickedness, 8:12a “Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, **and his days be prolonged...**”

- In Eccl. 8:10-14, the context focuses upon justice happening, even if it is slowly occurring.

(b) His Constant Warning, 8:12b-13

i. The Shallowness of His Life Revealed, 8:12b “...yet surely I know that **it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:**”

- Solomon sanctimoniously remembers that it is important to “fear God” regardless of any delays of justice from man’s perspective.

ii. The Shortness of His Life Revealed, 8:13

Eccl. 8:13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, **neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.**

- The wicked life, without fellowship with God, is like a shadow.
- The righteous life, in fellowship WITH God, is like a shadow.

1 Chron. 29:15 For we *are* strangers before thee, and sojourners, as *were* all our fathers: **our days on the earth are as a shadow**, and *there is* none abiding.

Job 8:9 (For we *are but* of yesterday, and know nothing, because **our days upon earth are a shadow**:)

Psa. 144:4 Man is like to **vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away.**

c. The Fantasy About Being Good, 8:14-15

(1) The Good Man Gets a Guilty Man's Reward, 8:14a
"There is a vanity which is done **upon the earth**; that there be just *men*, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked..."

- Bad things happen to good people.

(2) The Guilty Man Gets a Good Man's Reward, 8:14b
"...again, there be wicked *men*, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also *is vanity.*"

- Good things happen to bad people.

Baxter listed "the ten vanities:" The vanity of ...

human wisdom (2:15-16)

human labor (2:19-21)

human purpose (2:26)

human rivalry (4:4)

human avarice (4:7)

human fame (4:16)

human insatiety (5:10)

human coveting (6:9)

human frivolity (7:6)

human awards (8:10, 14)

Baxter, J. Sidlow. *Explore the Book*. 1960. One vol. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1980. (3:163.)

(3) The Worldly Man's Materialism, 8:15a "Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing **under the sun**, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry..."

- When Solomon cannot satisfy his thirst for knowledge and understanding, he capitulates to a fatalistic defeatism – "eat...drink...and to be merry..." – animalistic, too.

(4) The Worldly Man's Memory, 8:15b "...for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him **under the sun**."

d. The Fault About Being Gifted, 8:16-17

(1) The Weary Man Misses the Mark, 8:16a "When I applied mine heart to know wisdom..."

- The fiction of being great;
 - The folly of being godless;
 - The fantasy of being good;
 - The frivolity of being gleeful;
 - The fault of being gifted.
- Solomon's broken fellowship with God dulled his spiritual perception as he "applied...heart to know wisdom..."

(2) The Working Man Misses the Mark, 8:16b "...and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also *there is that* neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)"

- Too often mankind gets too busy in the work to appreciate that which is more important than the work.
- Serving in a ministry at church is NOT more important than fellowship WITH Christ!
- Building a career is NOT more important than building a relationship with your family.

(3) The Wise Man Misses the Mark, 8:17

Eccl. 8:17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done **under the sun**: because though a man labour to seek *it* out, yet he shall not find *it*; yea further; though a wise *man* think to know *it*, yet shall he not be able to find *it*.

- Much is going on in our day that we are oblivious in seeing and understanding:

- The Council on Foreign Relations

<http://web.archive.org/web/19990209032937/http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/8425/TRI-CFR.HTM>

- The Trilateral Commission
- The Bilderbergers
- The Rothchilds
- The Federal Reserve Bank
- The Pandemic

"Thus, since God has made **the is, the ought, and the what** will be unattainable to man through either the use of reason or experience, **all that man can know of them is through that which God reveals.** True understanding and resultant well-being, then, **comes only from the beyond the sun perspective that God provides."**

Cone, Christopher. *Life Beyond the Sun: An Introduction to Worldview and Philosophy through the Lens of Ecclesiastes*. Ft. Worth: Tyndale Seminary Press, 2009. (p. 391.)

Conclusion

Luke 10:38 Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

40 But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

41 And **Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:**

42 **But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part,** which shall not be taken away from her.

