

“Living In this Fallen World With Joy”

Ecclesiastes 8:14-17

August 26, 2026

- ❖ How can the prosperity of the wicked and the troubles of the righteous be _____ with the holiness and the goodness of God?

“There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.”

Ecclesiastes 8:14 (NIV)

- ❖ It is useless for the believer to understand why it is like this because we cannot _____ what God is doing or why.

“then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it.”

Ecclesiastes 8:17 (NIV)

- ❖ It is useless for the wicked to take some kind of _____ in the _____, it doesn't justify their bad behavior or give reason not to believe in God.

- I. We must not demand to _____.

““For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

- II. The Bible and Jesus make it clear that in this world there will be _____ to _____ realities concerning the wicked and the righteous.

“When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe the labor that is done on earth—people getting no sleep day or night— then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it.”

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17 (NIV)

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 (NIV)

- III. Don't think it's strange when you _____ while doing _____.

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

- IV. If we lived in a world where good things only happened to good people and bad things only happened to bad people, then people would do good not because of

_____ in God or _____ but only for the good they would get.

““Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

Job 1:9-11 (NIV)

- V. The unjust and unfair events of this world should not shake us because this world is not about _____ and this world is not our _____.

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family... For Abraham was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

Hebrews 11:1,7a,10 (NIV)

“Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised,”

Hebrews 11:36-37, 39

(NIV)

- VI. We can live in _____ in this world remembering that Biblical joy is not bound to circumstances but to _____.

“So, I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NIV)

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,”

James 1:2 (NIV)

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;”

Romans 5:3 (NIV)

“But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

Philippians 1:18-19 (NIV)

- ❖ Solomon’s increasing realization is that life is not pointless when lived in view of _____ and _____.