

Daily Bible Studies  
September 8 - July 14, 2013  
“Living Life  
When Life Seems Unfair”  
Ecclesiastes 8:9 - 17



Memory Verse

“Though a sinner does evil a hundred times,  
and his days are prolonged,  
yet I surely know that it will be well with those who  
fear God, who fear before Him.”

- Ecclesiastes 8:11

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- ☐ Lord's Day & Monday
- ☐ Tuesday
- ☐ Wednesday
- ☐ Thursday
- ☐ Friday & Saturday

Signature

## The Lord's Day & Monday

Read **Ecclesiastes 8:9 - 17**.

Well, here we are in Ecclesiastes again. Pray that God will speak to you as we continue to look at it. I believe we will find the truths that Solomon lays out quite humbling. We need the Lord's help to submit to them.

This week we do indeed see humbling things. As you talk to people during your life, you will find people who are angry with God. They question whether he is good and fair. They might say things like, "My mom was the nicest lady that you could ever meet. She was a Christian like you, but she was killed by a drunk driver. He got out of jail after three years, but my mom is still dead. What kind of God lets that happen?" It sometimes seems like the righteous end up with bad things while the wicked "get away with murder" or worse. Are things really as they seem though? As always we must ask for God's understanding as we think about His true Word.

*"All this I have seen, and applied my heart to every work that is done under the sun: There is a time in which one man rules over another to his own hurt. Then I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of holiness, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done. This also is vanity. Because the 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. Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God. There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. So I commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this will remain with him in his labor all the days of his life which God gives him under the sun. When I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth, even though one sees no sleep day or night, then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. For though a man labors to discover it, yet he will not find it; moreover, though a wise man attempts to know it, he will not be able to find it."*

## Friday & Saturday Activity

Think of four things that you think are hard to believe about God. Write them down. Now ask your mom and dad to pray with you about them.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Heavenly Father, thank-you for showing your truth to your children. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are. Please give me faith to believe you even when it seems hard. Thank-you for teaching from your Word this week. Amen."

Pray for the Lord's Day service:

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

## Friday & Saturday

The last reading for this week is **Ecclesiastes 8:16 - 17**.

Thankfully, the Lord has kindly revealed the truth to his children. If you are his child, you should have some understanding that God and all of his ways are good. Even still, because we are only sinful men we often look at life and shake our head in disbelief. We just don't understand it.

Solomon emphasizes that even if you work with all of your might to understand, even if you are the wisest man in the world, at the end of the day you must trust your Lord, because you cannot understand everything that he does and allows to happen in this world.

As the Bible says, "the just shall live by faith." Matthew Henry, a godly man from many years ago, reminds us of this: If we have faith in God, we will have joy and peace. Times may be good or bad and our body may wear out, break down and die, but our joy will stay with us until we see God face to face and all of our questions about this life are answered.

[Hbr 1:8-12 ESV] But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

## The Lord's Day & Monday Activity

What have you learned so far from our study of Ecclesiastes?

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What are some ways that people seem to get away with doing bad things?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask you mom and dad if they will pray with you. You could pray something like this: "Lord Jesus, help me this week. Fix my thinking. I admit I am tempted to be jealous of evil people. Sometimes I think their ways are better and more fun. My heart is out of whack. Please forgive me, teach me, and change me. Help me to believe that your ways are good and right."

Pray for your family:

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandpas, Grandmas, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins

## Tuesday

Today we will be reading **Ecclesiastes 8:9-11**.

Solomon today says that he has seen kings rule over people to his own hurt. It seems very unfair that powerful men get away with taking advantage of and hurting others.

Who exactly is the ruler hurting though? It may be that Solomon saw kings ruling over others in an evil way and so the ruler was hurting the people in his kingdom. On the other hand, at the same time that the ruler was hurting his people, he was hurting himself because God was watching him and God was not pleased. When people do evil as though God is not watching, they often do not realize that they are “storing up wrath for themselves.” (Romans 2:5) In other words, God is keeping track of their evil and for every evil deed that they do, God is planning and storing up punishment for it. One day God will take out what he has stored for them and pour out wrath on them.

Solomon goes so far as to say that he has seen evil rulers honored as though they were good. They are given majestic funerals and remembered as great human beings. God’s people may see this and feel that there is no justice.

Adding to the seeming “unfairness” are the taunts that the wicked throw at God. The unrighteous tempt God. They say things like, “If there is a God he will strike me dead with lightning right after I do something really bad.”

They do the bad thing and nothing happens. “See! I am still alive! God didn’t strike me with lightning, because there is no God!” Solomon says in verse 11, that men do evil and because they are not punished by God right away they become hardened in their hearts. They become bolder to do even more evil things that are worst than the first. They think that lack of punishment proves there is no God.

Unfortunately, that is incorrect thinking. When God waits and waits and waits to punish evil it is not because he does not exist or does not care. It is because he is displaying his patience and mercy. For some his patience leads them to repent and believe the gospel. For others, God’s patience only makes their punishment worse in the end because they continue to disobey God. They think that He does not see.

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.” - Proverbs 15:3

## Thursday Quiz

### True or False

1. We should just give up when we see men getting

away with evil.

T

F

2. We can live with peace and joy knowing that

Jesus will one day do away with evil.

T

F

3. What are some things that God has given us that we can enjoy?

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4. How can we show God gratitude for the things that He has given us?

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## Prayer

Pray about today’s lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

“Lord, please help me to live joyfully even when life seems unfair. Help me to have faith that you will punish evil someday. Thank-you for all the blessings that you have given me. Help me enjoy them as gifts from you and not make Idols out of them.”

Pray for the leaders of our government. As always, pray that they would fear and honor the Lord Jesus with the decisions they make.

1. Linda J. Rychcik, Salamanca City Comptroller
2. Catherine M. Young, NYS Senator
3. Charles E. Schumer, US Senate

## Thursday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 8:15**.

So how should we react when we see the wicked living as if there is no consequence for their evil? Should we pout and sulk? Should we suck our thumb and refuse to smile? Should we sigh loudly and question so that everyone can hear us, "Uggh, what's the point?" No!

Solomon recommends that we live joyfully and he is right. We know that Jesus rules the earth and he will punish evil one day. "Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" - Genesis 18:25

As children of God, we wait for an eternal reward that is far better than anything this world can offer us, but as we wait we enjoy what God has given us with thankfulness. We do not enjoy it wildly and in rebellion as if there is no God, but we enjoy it gratefully and in moderation because there is a God.

[2Th 1:4-10 ESV] "Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering-- since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed."

## Tuesday Quiz

[Rom 2:3-8 ESV] Do you suppose, O man--you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself--that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

What is the Bible teaching you in this passage?

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## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray: "Father, there is a day that you have on your schedule when Jesus will judge the whole world. I will not be able to say I did not know, like many others will claim. Cause me to fear God and trust in Jesus all the days of my life. Amen."

Pray for your church family:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Duff
2. Mrs. Reta Fallon
3. Mr. and Mrs. Howard

Wednesday

Please read **Ecclesiastes 8:12-14**.

Today, Solomon repeats some of what he said yesterday. First, he notes that some men may sin a hundred times and yet his life will be prolonged. He means that some people just seem to always do evil and sin and yet they live in peace as though God does not care. We have already learned that God does care and one day the sinners’ apparent peace will end, but Solomon gives us more comfort today. He says, “I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.” He teaches us that those that do fear God will be blessed. We must believe that this is true even when it seems that it is not.

Next, we see Solomon give us some truths that seem quite discouraging at first glance, but they are actually cause for great joy. He basically says that he has observed “good” people being treated like they were evil and “bad” people being treated as though they were good. That seems really unfair, right? It sure does, but can you think of a person in the Bible that was treated “unfairly?”

The truth is “there is no one righteous, no, not one.” Every single person who has ever lived is bad, except for one...Jesus. Those that believe Jesus and have been adopted into his family are treated as though they are good, even though they have done a lot of bad. On the other hand, Jesus who always did good was treated as though he had done bad. Because Jesus took our sin and punishment we can have his righteousness and eternal life.

Next time you are tempted to question God’s “fairness,” remember the “unfair” trade he made for you on the cross.

Wednesday Quiz

1. If you live a long life it means that  
you are a good person. T or F
2. We will be blessed if we fear  
God. T or F
3. If we are good and kind, then bad  
things will never happen to us. T or F
4. Even though he was always good, Jesus  
was treated unfairly. T or F
5. Those who believe in Jesus have been  
given eternal life. T or F

Prayer

Pray about today’s lesson. Here is an idea of what to pray: “Dear Heavenly Father, please help me to trust you when it seems that bad men get away with sinning against you. Help me to be like Jesus when I am treated unfairly. Thank you Lord Jesus for going to the cross and dying for my sins. Thank you Father for adopting me into you family.”

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

This week’s missionaries are the Griffiths.  
They are missionaries to  
Belgium.



1.F 2.T. 3.F 4.T 5.T