

10 March 2021

Ecclesiastes 8:12

Last time we were in (8:11): “Because sentence against an evil work is NOT executed speedily, therefore the hearts of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil”

You can certainly see (in our day) that the wicked do not fear punishment, if they did, we might see wickedness curbed in our society, but it is getting worse and worse.

Psalm 10:3-11

We live in a land where sin and immorality has been redefined as NOT WRONG behavior, but as normal human behavior. Wickedness has become lawful, even protected behavior. Hence the wicked continue to embolden themselves in their wickedness.

“The hearts of the wicked are fully set in them to do evil”

Thank the Lord that He has NOT executed sentence speedily. Thank the Lord for “a stay of execution” from the Lord toward us in our sins. Thank the Lord that He has been patient/longsuffering with us when we were dead in our sins; that He didn’t execute sentence against us immediately when we sinned against Him, but gave us time and space to repent. (*Text: Read 8:12-14*)

(8:12A): “Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged”; (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”: We will the wicked first:

Beloved of God, NEVER forget this, whatever you see in the world; “it shall NOT be well with the wicked”! I don’t care how good they’re doing!

You will see sinners in the world prospering, fairing sumptuously every day, living long lives, all the while sinning against God with impunity/without any punishment against them for their wickedness; but don’t envy/be jealous of what they have or of their lives.

Just remember how long you lived in the world as an unpunished sinner, when you sinned against God with impunity. Remember what we learned last week in (V11) about the patience and longsuffering of God, and of His goodness!

In Psalms 37 & 73, we find the Psalmists (David & Asaph) fretting because of the wicked, envying the wicked because they, so often, seem to go through life without any difficulties, prospering, and with long lives; but, HERE WE ARE serving God with lives full of trials, afflictions, and difficulties. *Ecclesiastes 7:15, 8:14*

Beloved, IT SHALL NOT BE WELL WITH THE WICKED; the rich ~ wicked man, in Luke 16 after he died, he IMMEDIATELY lifted up his eyes in hell, and was told, you fared sumptuously every day in your earthly life, living in your wickedness, fearing not God, but now you are in torments.

Psalm 37:1-2, 8-10, 12-15, 17, 20, 35-36, 73:1-12

Proverbs 13:21A, 24:19, Isaiah 3:11, Romans 2:5, 9:22-24

The days/time of the wicked, though they seem prolonged, their days are like a shadow:

Job 20:5: “The triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment”

To the Good News: (V12B): “Yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him”: Psalm 37:3-7, 11, 16, 23-28, 73:12-28, Isaiah 3:10

We must always keep our sights heavenward, and by sights heavenward, I mean, we, the professed people of God are to be people of faith in Christ. It stands to reason that our lives ought characterized by “walking by faith in Christ” and in His Holy Word, NOT being envious and jealous of the wicked in their prosperity!

Many of us KNOW MUCH of what is written in the Holy Scriptures, but how much of what we know, DO WE BELIEVE. And by believe, I mean TRUST!

These Psalmists (37 & 73) knew these things about the wicked, but found themselves cast down because they looked (by sight) at the prosperity of the wicked, (instead of by faith) toward God and in His promises.

Psalm 115:13: “He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great”

This is what await YOU child of God: (Matthew 25:34) and this is what awaits the wicked: Matthew 25:41.

(V14): Read: There are saints of God who, whose earthly lives are full of distress and trouble and sickness, calamities.

Think of ALL that happened to Job! Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, ALL of them told Job that his trial was because of some sin, some wickedness in his life. Think of Joseph, Lazarus! Asaph in Psalm 73:

(V13-14): “Verily I have cleansed by heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning”

And then, there are the wicked, as we saw in (V12-13), who seem to be blessed at every turn in their earthly lives. We saw that in Psalm 37/73!

Beloved of God, the Judge of all the earth IS GOING TO DO RIGHT, both in the lives of the righteous, and in the lives of the wicked. Therefore, whatever God has assigned you; remember that this is NOT your heaven. This is NOT your best life, heave, in the presence Christ will be!

Ecclesiastes 3:17: Never forget this! “I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.”