

24 March 2021

Ecclesiastes 8:15-17

**We continue in (Verse 15) with “Then” or “Therefore”, or in light of all of what I beheld and considered about life from what I most recently wrote to you:**

Before we pick up in (V15), it is important (I believe) to the context to understand what came before (V15), and how it's connected.

(V11-13): “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”. We SEE so much of this in the world!

*BUT: Child of God, DON'T FORGET that (although) God's goodness and patience and longsuffering should be driving sinners to repentance, INSTEAD, they go on in their sins, and in so doing, lost sinners are despising God's goodness and patience and longsuffering, and they are treasuring up unto themselves wrath against the day of wrath and righteous judgment of God!*

And in light of the fact that YES, so many sinners are continuing in their sins, (unchecked and unpunished), multiplying sin upon sin, to all outward appearances prospering in their sins and prolonging their days, YET ultimately, (and in the end) it SHALL NOT be well with the wicked....never forget that!

And in light of the fact that YES, to all outward appearances, so many of the righteous are suffering in this life in ways that you might expect the wicked to be suffering. YET, Solomon encourages us that (in the end); IT shall be well with you child of God!

*Life in this world OFTEN seems upside down ~ backwards. Confusing! We stress ourselves out trying to figure it out! More to follow....*

**(V15): Then or “Therefore”, from all of what I previously beheld and considered:**

In light of all of the discouraging situations that we experience because we live in a fallen and sinful world; therefore, (because of all of these difficulties of life); Solomon commends or “recommends and urges” his readers to be joyful in what God has assigned to you by His wise providence! Psalm 55:22, 1 Thessalonians 5:18

*Psalm 118:24, Philippians 4:4, 11-13, Hebrews 13:5-6*

Beloved of God, are there any other “HUMANS” on the planet (WHO) should be MORE FULL of JOY and GLADNESS than YOU? Whatever our current situation or state?

You might say, but you don't know the heartache, sorrow, and the difficulties that I have had to deal with in my life; you don't know what I am suffering with NOW and TODAY in my life...in this present evil world?

TIS TRUE, (that I DON'T what you're going through in your life), BUT I DO KNOW what awaits you in (the NEXT), in the presence of Christ, in that blessed eternity that awaits you...where there shall be no more sorrow, crying, or tears, (and no more death), but ONLY Everlasting JOY (which) you will experience without intermission! I do know what awaits you there; THAT is where you MUST CONSTANTLY FIX YOUR HEART in the midst of all your days “under the sun”! Both the hard days ~ easy days! Romans 8:28, Philippians 2:13, Jeremiah 29:11

*Stop asking God why, stop trying to figure out God's providence; bow in faith to Him in humble submission, knowing that whatever God has assigned to you, it is for your good! Remember the end of Job!*

We DO NOT...and we CANNOT control God's providence in our lives; I believe that is why Solomon HERE "recommended" & "commended" mirth, or joy & gladness; and that we should be content with what God has given us in this life of all of our labors! In fact, this is a repeating theme of Solomon's throughout the Book of Ecclesiastes. *Ecclesiastes 2:24, 3:11-13, 22, 5:18, 9:7-9*

**(V16-17): "When I applied my heart TO KNOW wisdom, and TO SEE (or UNDERSTAND) the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:) 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 labor (and lose sleep) 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"**

It was as if Solomon was saying; I lost sleep that I might KNOW the wisdom of God in His providence; I lost sleep trying to understand WHY things happen the way they do in the world, to both the righteous and the wicked.

*Ecclesiastes 9:1-2*

As much as one may labor, seek, and search, to find and figure out God's ways, and why He does what He does; "though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it". *Isaiah 55:8-9, Romans 11:33-36, Job 11:7-10.*

So Christian, STOP asking, why is this happening in my life? Yes there is reaping what you sowed; if that's the case you know why; otherwise, STOP striving against your Maker, for He is your Heavenly Father...who does (and will do) all things well in your life and for your good.

*Job 33:13: "But why dost thou strive against Him? For He giveth not account of any of His matters."*

**Think about it, if we could search out and find out God, would He be God? Solomon: "Though a wise man THINK to know (God's providence, His plans, and His ways), yet shall he not be able to find it"**

CB: "Perfect day (or complete revelation from God) would leave (IN US) no room for the exercise of faith; (so) the discipline of the present dispensation (of God's providence in our lives) IS wisely appointed BY HIM to humble us in the sense of ignorance, and to wean us from self-conceit (so that we may) exercise of confidence in God (and NOT in ourselves). In this spirit we shall be humble, patient, diligent, intelligent learners, sitting at the feet of our Divine Teacher; not disputing, or leaning unto OUR OWN understanding, but willing to be led in His own best way, on any ground, by any means that may seem good in His sight"

*Ecclesiastes 3:11-14*

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can

be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.