



**Dealing With
Conundrums Of Life
Ecclesiastes 7:15-18**



Things That Make You Go “Hmmm”

- Is there any difference between partly cloudy and partly sunny?
- Why do they call it “Grape Nuts Cereal” when it has neither grapes nor nuts in it?
- What was the greatest thing *before* sliced bread?
- Why do “slow down” and “slow up” mean the same thing?
- If the #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2?
- Why don’t you ever see the headline “Psychic Wins The Lottery?”



Ecclesiastes 7:15

*“I have seen everything in my days of vanity:
There is a just man who perishes in his righteousness,
And there is a wicked man who prolongs life
in his wickedness.”*

- **Solomon has seen bad things happen to good people**
- **He has also seen good things happen to bad people**
- **Suffering is not always directly related to wickedness**
- **Prosperity is not always related to righteousness**



Even The Prophets Wrestled Spiritually With This Issue

*“Righteous are You, O Lord, when I plead with You;
You let me talk with You about Your judgments.*

Why does the way of the wicked prosper?

Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?”

Jeremiah 12:1



*“You are of purer eyes than to behold evil,
And cannot look on wickedness.*

*Why do you look on those who deal treacherously,
And hold your tongue when the wicked devours
A person more righteous than he?*

Habakkuk 1:13

Ecclesiastes 7:16-18

“Do not be overly righteous,

Nor be overly wise:

Why should you destroy yourself?

Do not be overly wicked,


Nor be foolish:

Why should you die before your time?

It is good that you grasp this,


And also not remove your hand from the other;

For he who fears God shall escape them all.”

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- As we grow in Christ, we should avoid two extremes
 - 1) Being arrogant in our righteousness
 - 2) Being deliberate in our wickedness
 - Verse 20, ***“For there is not a just man on earth who does good, And does not sin.”***

Compared to God “If your brainpower was changed to petroleum, a mosquito would not have enough gasoline to drive his motorcycle around the inside of a Cheerio!”

George Buchanan Jr.

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- Yes, prophets of old wrestled with God's sovereignty but *His sovereignty* is not the problem
 - *Our Sinfulness* is the problem, Ecclesiastes 7:29

“Truly this only I have found.

*That God made man upright (virtuous),
But they have sought out many schemes.”*

(made a mess of things, The MSG.)

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- Adam and Eve were created “upright” or virtuous
 - However, they believed Satan’s scheme to disobey God and become “like God” as Satan counseled Eve

Genesis 3:5

“For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

- You know that the scheme failed miserably, bringing pain, suffering, and death into the world
- Isaiah 53:6 , ***“All we like sheep have gone astray: We have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”***
- God is not to blame for wickedness, but this doesn’t solve the conundrum of vs. 15, that a righteous man dies in the middle of doing good



Verse 17

*“Do not be overly wicked,
Nor be foolish:*

Why should you die before your time?”

- He is not saying that we can get away with “a little wickedness” just don’t be overly wicked
- He is saying that we must not indulge ourselves in wickedness or give into wickedness to try to live a meaningful life (just because some good people die young and some wicked people seem to fair well)
- Sin is pleasant (that’s why we do it, Hebrews 11:24,25) but it is a violation of God’s law and will have to be accounted for in the day of judgment

So If Neither Self-Righteousness Nor Self-Indulgence Makes Sense, What Does?

Trusting God(Verse 18)

“It is good that you grasp this, And also not remove your hand from the other; For he who fears God will escape them all (avoid both extremes).”

- *Romans 12:3 Don't have an exaggerated opinion of your own importance (It's a set-up for failure)*
Matthew 7:24-27
- **Solomon says that neither self-righteousness nor self-indulgence makes real sense in this conundrum of life but trusting God does, Proverbs 3:5-6**



When Life Doesn't Make Sense:

Trust God!

When the righteous die young

When the economy isn't making sense

When the elections don't give us the right politicians

When your children turn their back on the faith

When your spouse walks out on you

When your health begins to fail

When the world turns its back on God



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 2:38