

When Life Doesn't Seem Fair!

Ecclesiastes 7:15-18

The Observation

Verse 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.”*

- Many of us can identify with knowing a person who as far as we know, lived a righteous life, loving God, and serving God, but tragedy struck their lives, seemingly suffering innocently
- We also know of people who seem to be arrogant with the sin in their lives, but still seem to grow old and comfortable
(I WOULDN'T TRY THAT IF I WERE YOU; BOTH DIE)
- Why do some of the good suffer tragedy early and the bad grow old?
(It doesn't seem fair)

What Are The Guidelines For Our Perspectives On These Matters?

#1 Don't Deceive Yourself Or Indulge Yourself (Verses 15-16)

“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?”*

What Is Solomon Saying?

- To avoid being “overly righteous,” means don’t try to manipulate God’s promises (force God’s hand) by your behavior “good behavior” (Hints of the “Prosperity Gospel”)
- Solomon wants us to avoid self righteousness, as a means of trying to gain some advantage over God to give us something that we want

Prosperity Gospel!

“He is a progressive God, and He wants every generation to be in increasing happiness, success, and significance. No matter where we are in life, God has more in store.

(Become a Better You p.3)

“But if you develop an image of victory, success, health, abundance, joy, peace, and happiness, nothing on earth will be able to hold these things from you.

(Your Best Life Now, p.5)

Observations

- God is sovereign and our obedience should not be conditional for his blessings (see Job's reasoning 2:10)
- Solomon also wants us to avoid self righteous tendencies. Jesus echoed this concept in Matthew 6:1-2

“Take heed that you do not your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore when you do a charitable deed, do not sound the trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogue and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say unto you, they have their reward.”

Don't Indulge Yourself, “overly wicked”

- Surely he's is not saying, “It's okay to be a little wicked, just don't overdo it.”
- He is saying that even though we all sin, living in sin is not the answer to a meaningful life on earth during the short time we have here (Aristotle's “Golden Mean”)
- Solomon says that living on the wicked end of the extreme can cause us to die before our appointed time and we all are aware of examples of this (Hollywood entertainers, sports heroes, the Volume of Distribution Principle)

Volume of Distribution Principle



Urkel's Volume of Distribution Could Be Larger Than Fat Albert's!



Dying Before Your Time!

(The Bible Is Right!)



#2 Trust 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.”*

**In an upside down world in which the righteous
may die sooner than the wicked, we must develop
a trusting relationship with God to make it
through life!**

So When You Experience Things That Seem Unfair:

Trust God!

When good people die early

When the economy doesn't do what we thought it would

When the elections don't give us the right candidates

When your children turn their backs on their faith

When your spouse walks out on you

When you lose your loved ones through death

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 8:38