

## Ecclesiastes 8:10-13

It's a pleasure once again to be able to speak to you about the Word of God and speak to you from the Word of God. We're studying right now in the book of Ecclesiastes on "It's a Good Life," and if it's possible for you to have your Bible, I'd ask you to turn to Chapter 8 of Ecclesiastes. Now, the last time we looked at Ecclesiastes Chapter 8, we left off with verse 10, and I want to look at verse 10 and also tie that in with verse 11.

Verse 10 of Ecclesiastes 8 says: *And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity.*

This is actually telling us that wicked rulers are soon forgotten and, also, that they leave nothing behind. It's all gone. They come and they go, and after they're dead, they're forgotten. Their wickedness got them vanity... got them nothing at all.

And then we look at verse 11. In verse 10, as we've looked at it here, we might ask this question: Why do some continue to do evil? Well, verse 11 of Ecclesiastes Chapter 8 answers that question: *Because 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.*

Men are determined to do evil because the penalty or the sentence for their sin is not carried out immediately. In other words, when someone does something wrong and they don't pay for it immediately, they say, "Well, you know, I don't have to worry about it. It's over with and I got away with it."

Well, in II Peter 3:9, it tells us why the sentence, for the most part, is not carried out quickly or immediately. It says there, *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

He's not willing that anybody should perish or go to a devil's Hell. God sends nobody to Hell. He does all He can to save us from that place. He's longsuffering to every person in this world. He's not willing that any should go there. That's what the Bible says. And I would say do not believe that person who says, "Well, God chooses certain people to go to Heaven and certain people to go to Hell, and He chooses." That's not true.

God leaves that up to us as individuals, as human beings. He offers the same thing to every person in this world. He offers eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ. In that verse once again in II Peter 3:9, it says, *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

So, when we look around us and even as a saved person or any individual that sees a person who's doing wrong and we say, "I wonder why God doesn't punish that person," or "Why doesn't that person have to pay for what they're doing now?" Well, that's not up to us as an individual to really decide what happens to that individual. It's up to God. And the reason it does not happen immediately is because God is longsuffering. He wants all of us to come to a saving knowledge of His Son.

Now, in verse 12 of Ecclesiastes 8, it says, *Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him.* Even though a sinner continually sins, this verse is saying, and he lives longer than expected, it's better for those who fear God and worship Him.

As we think about this, we also need to realize that, according to Hebrews 10:31, it's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God. People need to understand that it's something that we need to fear, not that we fear that God's going to step on us and squash us, but that we have a reverential fear of God, respecting Him. And we're going to see that again in just a moment.

In Ecclesiastes 8:13, it says, *But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days... He can't do anything to prolong them. He can't prolong his days... which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.*

Not having reverential respect... and that's the fear that I'm speaking of here... not having that reverential respect for God does not help the sinner or the wicked to live longer. In other words, if he doesn't have that, if he's a tough guy, if he says, "I don't need God. I don't need anybody," that's not going to prolong his days. God is not afraid of us. God is not afraid of any one. God is the one who has given us life. He's the Creator. He's the Creator of life and He's the Sustainer of life, and He also offers eternal life through Jesus Christ, His Son. Not having that fear of God, that person who thinks, "Well, I'm tough and I don't need anyone else," that doesn't cause them to live longer.

Life will end for the person who does not have a reverential fear of God. It's coming. And the end for one who does not believe God's promises will not be good. We see that in the

Word of God. Let me say that again. The end for the one who does not believe God's promises will not be good. It's not going to be good for that person who does not believe God's promises, according to verse 13. And the promises of God tell us that Jesus Christ came into this world. He came and He lived and died for sinners, and every one of us... we are sinners.

James 4:14 says, *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

We need to understand that our lives come to an end one day. We're not going to be here forever, and that person who is unsaved, that person who has never trusted Christ, who has never had that reverential fear of God, that person needs to understand that they're not promised tomorrow.

In Genesis 3:15, it gives us the first promise of the Savior. It says, *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed...* God's speaking to the devil here. He's saying, "You caused a problem here, and because of the way things happened, I'm going to"... *put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head...* Now, a head wound is final. When something's head is stomped, like a snake, then it's over with, and that's what God is telling the devil here. God is telling Satan. He says, "There's coming a time when you're gonna be finished," and that verse in Genesis 3:15 says, *and thou shalt bruise his heel.* In other words, the Seed of God, and that's Jesus Christ, He was going to be bruised. In other words, He was going to be hurt, but a heel wound is not deadly.

And the reason the verse says it this way is that Jesus would come; He would be crucified; He

would be buried; and thank God, He came out of the grave. He was wounded for our transgressions. That means He was bruised. He was wounded for our transgressions, and God laid on Him the iniquity of the sin of us all, all of mankind, so that we could be saved and go to Heaven.

But the devil one day is going to be finished completely. Right now, he has what we would think of as a free reign. Of course, he can only go so far with what he does now, but he's powerful. God's given him some authority that he can do what he can do right now to cause every person in this world trouble, and that includes saved people. He's going to cause us as much trouble as he can.

But that person who does not believe God's promises, that doesn't mean the promises are not going to come to pass, because, once again, God is sovereign. He's all powerful. The things that God has said are going to happen will happen, and we've seen some of those things come to pass that have been mentioned in the Word of God itself.

For instance, in Isaiah 7:14, it says, *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* And we see that fulfilled, that prophecy, in Matthew 1:23 from Isaiah 7:14. It says, *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.* Jesus Christ was God. Jesus Christ took upon Himself the likeness of sinful man. He took upon Himself flesh. There's a big difference in Him and mankind and man. Jesus was sinless. He never sinned. He couldn't sin, because He was God.

And once again, my mind cannot wrap itself around everything that I read in the Word of God. I take everything by faith that God has

told me and I believe it. Because why? God has said it. He was God. Jesus was God, and He was man.

In Hebrews 9:27, this is where people need to understand that something is going to happen one day, and Hebrews 9:27: *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.* Once the grave is dug and once that person who has lived in this world, that person who has died, once that person is gone out of this life, there is nothing left except judgment.

Now, there's the White Throne Judgment that takes place for the unsaved person, and that's going to be too late to receive Jesus as Savior. It's over with. And everybody in this world needs to understand that there's coming a time when death takes place. Once again, Hebrews 9:27: *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*

And of course, Revelation 20:15 says, *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.* What a terrible time that would be for anyone to be cast into the lake of fire, and the Bible says that.

Some people say, "Well, I'll be with a lot of friends," and I got news for you. You're not going to have any friends in Hell. In fact, the devil himself is going to be there in the lake of fire. And, you know, that's where he's going to be forever and ever. That's where a person who's never trusted Jesus Christ is going to be forever and forever. You'll be with the other unsaved people but it'll be just like you're alone. It'll be a terrible place and the Bible teaches this, and you certainly don't want to go there. If you've never trusted Jesus, you need to get saved today.

Now, we move into the second portion of this chapter, Chapter 8, and this second portion is to note the similarity between the preacher's conclusion and the Book of Job, about the inability of man to discern all the work of God.

And to break that down even further, I would say that in verses 14-17 we see the... enduring the vanity in life.

In Ecclesiastes 8:14, we see perplexity. Expect perplexity.

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