

Justice Under the Sun

Ecclesiastes 8:10–13

1. Don't look to _____ to _____ good and evil. v. 10

2. Don't look to _____ to _____ good and evil. v. 11-12a

3. Look to God who alone can be _____ to bring _____ justice. v. 12b-13



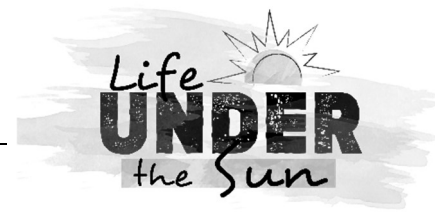
Ecclesiastes 8:10–13

^[10] Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity. ^[11] Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.

^[12] Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. ^[13] But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God. (ESV)

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May 16, 2021



Open: How would you summarize what we've learned from Ecclesiastes so far?

Read: Ecclesiastes 8:10-13

Discuss

1. Verse 10 starts with a reminder about death, but then goes on to talk about the life of the wicked. What does the Preacher observe in this verse about the irony of the life of the wicked? How have you seen the wicked praised or evil celebrated by our society today?
2. In verse 11, the Preacher recognizes that often those who do evil do not experience the consequences of their actions for some time. Why does this bother the Preacher? Why might God allow the world to operate this way? Would you agree with the Preacher's observation that "the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil"? Why or why not?
3. Verse 12a acknowledges that not only do those who do evil often not suffer negative consequences for their actions, they often actually *benefit* from the consequences of their sin. How have you observed this happening in our world? How do you deal with this injustice?
4. How does this passage fit into the Preacher's greater quest to find meaning under the sun? In the middle of verse 12, the Preacher shifts from talking about things he "saw" to what he "knows." When discipling a new believer, how might you counsel them regarding making conclusions about life from what we see, versus trusting in God when His ways are obscure?
5. By faith, in verses 12b-13, the Preacher expresses confidence that God will one day judge the wicked. From other places in Scripture, what else do you know about what awaits the wicked and the righteous? How does Jesus provide resolution to the Preacher's quandary?
6. To a newer believer who is struggling with the apparent injustice in the world, how would you explain the wisdom of God's ways with regard to judging injustice and wickedness? How would you counsel that believer regarding any actions they should take as a result?

Apply: How can you better respond to the injustice in our world?

Pray: Ask God to help us view the world as He views it—and to be merciful to those who sin, to be patient as we await His judgment, and to be eager to live righteously.

Ecclesiastes 8:10-13

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