

**Message #28****Ecclesiasts 8:10-14**

Solomon saw people who had done evil and wrong seemingly walking away without any reproof or punishment. He saw godless people honored and he saw godly people hounded.

**EVEN THOUGH IT MAY APPEAR AS THOUGH ONE WHO DOES EVIL HAS A GOOD LIFE, IT IS ONE WHO FEARS GOD WHO ULTIMATELY HAS THE GOD-BLESSED, MEANINGFUL LIFE.**

Now we may notice that **verse 10** begins with the words “I have seen.” Solomon is looking at various things in an attempt to investigate, to seek and explain all kinds of things.

**OBSERVATION #1** – Solomon’s observation concerning the end of the wicked. **8:10**

**Fact #1** - The wicked person is buried. **8:10a**

A burial was an important part of Israel’s history and honor for the dead. Typically one who died was buried and the people gathered together to grieve and to mourn (i.e. Jer. 16:6).

The fact that wicked people are buried implies that when wicked people die, many people show up to honor them. Wicked people do reach positions of honor and prominence and Solomon had certainly witnessed lavish funerals for wicked people that died. Solomon saw that wicked people die and are honored by an impressive funeral. People gather to pay their respects to people who do not deserve respect.

**Fact #2** - The wicked person is religious. **8:10b**

The pronoun “those” refers to the wicked who were buried. Obviously, Solomon saw that wicked people were religious people. Probably at the funeral there was much praise for the man who went in and out of the “holy place” on a regular basis. It did not matter what his character was, if he regularly went through religious motions he was esteemed when he died.

Some believe the “holy place” refers to Jerusalem, the holy city, and others believe it refers to the temple in Jerusalem.

This verse makes it very clear that it is possible to go to religious services faithfully and still be classified as being wicked.

**Fact #3** - The wicked person will be forgotten. **8:10c**

A wicked person may have done all kinds of things in a city that gains the applause of most of the people, but when that person dies and gets before God, everything he did will be forgotten. Wicked people cannot please God and their works are as filthy rags no matter how impressive they appeared to be.

**OBSERVATION #2** – Solomon’s observation concerning the judgment of the wicked. **8:11**

Solomon noticed that God does not execute judgment against the wicked quickly. God’s retribution is rarely swift and it typically comes later rather than sooner. Evil people do not realize that this delay is giving them time to repent (Rom. 2:4). Instead of mourning over their sin, they persist in their sin.

As a result, evil people have hearts that become more and more evil.

There are some practical things to remember from this verse:

1. God’s judgment against evil is rarely immediate.
2. God’s judgment against evil is always definite.
3. When God delays His judgment, those evil tend to harden their hearts and become more evil. Rarely do they repent.
4. We should use time to continually analyze our own lives to make certain we aren’t drifting further away from righteousness and more and more into evil as we wait for Christ’s return;

**OBSERVATION #3** – Solomon’s observation concerning the outcome of the wicked and the righteous. **8:12**

Sometimes wicked people live long lives. They may pursue their wickedness 100 times. A person may secretly sin time and time again and life just seems to move forward. In the end it will be the one who fears God openly who will win.

**OBSERVATION #4** – Solomon’s observation concerning the outcome of one evil. **8:13**

Solomon had observed that life never is ultimately good for the evil sinner. Those who do not fear God nor pursue righteousness will never be blessed by God. A person may go on and on in his sin, but his life and memory will not be lengthened as a blessing of God. In fact, when he gets into eternity his sin will stop and he will burn forever (12:14).

It will never be well for one who does not fear God and it will always be well for one who does fear God!

**OBSERVATION #5** – Solomon’s observation concerning life on earth for one wicked and one righteous. **8:14**

Solomon saw futility on this earth—sometimes the righteous man winds up being shafted by the wicked man and sometimes the wicked man winds up on top and it appears as though he is getting the blessings which belong to the righteous.

Sometimes in this life the righteous do not prosper as those blessed by God. Sometimes it is the wicked person who prospers almost as if he has taken over the place of the righteous.

In the end, the one who fears God will be blessed and the one who doesn't will be cursed.

**Concluding Thoughts**

1. A meaningful life is never an evil life.
2. Wicked people in this world are often impressive and prosperous.
3. God will always settle scores in His time and in His way.