

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 8:9-17 (NLT)

The Wicked and the Righteous

9 I have thought deeply about all that goes on here under the sun, where people have the power to hurt each other. **10** I have seen wicked people buried with honor. Yet they were the very ones who frequented the Temple and are now praised in the same city where they committed their crimes! This, too, is meaningless. **11** When a crime is not punished quickly, people feel it is safe to do wrong.

12 But even though a person sins a hundred times and still lives a long time, I know that those who fear God will be better off. **13** The wicked will not prosper, for they do not fear God. Their days will never grow long like the evening shadows.

14 And this is not all that is meaningless in our world. In this life, good people are often treated as though they were wicked, and wicked people are often treated as though they were good. This is so meaningless!

15 So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them under the sun.

16 In my search for wisdom and in my observation of people's burdens here on earth, I discovered that there is ceaseless activity, day and night. **17** I realized that no one can discover everything God is doing under the sun. Not even the wisest people discover everything, no matter what they claim.