

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Ecclesiastes

BIBLE TEXT | 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.

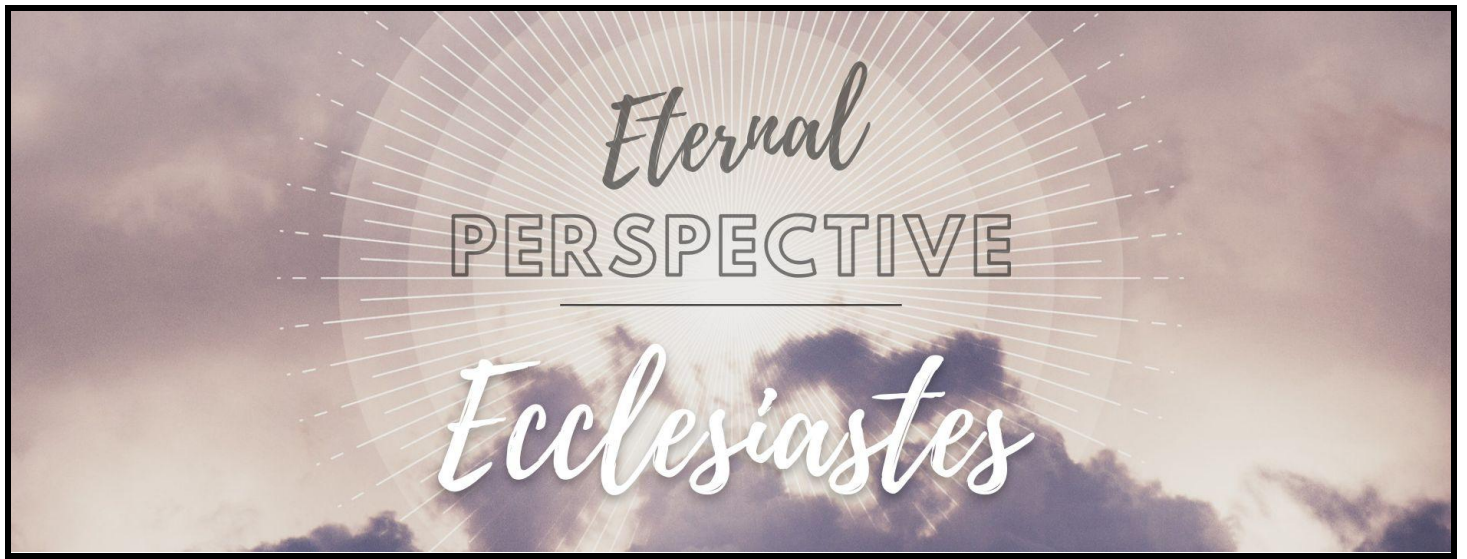
DEVOTIONAL FOR ECCLESIASTES 8:10-13

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*"Laws, like the spider's web, catch the fly and let the hawks go free."
-Spanish Proverb*

There is an injustice that exists in this world that can seem to be ever increasing. All around us, at every turn we read of, hear of, and/or see the prosperity of the wicked tip the scale against the plight of the righteous. "They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind" (Psalm 73:5). Evil men go free and not only that, they are "praised in the city" for their evil deeds. Morality has been turned upside down; good is called bad, and bad is celebrated as good. In many cases justice against wicked behavior is not even pursued, and when justice is not pursued, men's hearts will be emboldened to satisfy their ever growing sinful desires "fully set to do evil."

One may say that the believer should have a righteous indignation against such wickedness. Yes, the believer should "hate evil, and love good" (Amos 5:15), but in the midst of such injustice it may not be a righteous indignation that we feel but, if not careful, an unholy anger against the contradiction of unholy men. Psalm 37 says, "Fret not yourself because of evildoers...refrain from anger; and forsake wrath...**it tends only to evil**" (Psalm 37:1, 8). There is for certain more of an awareness of the presence of evil in the world than there ever has been, but to turn our hearts against those that commit such evil instead of against the evil itself, we risk our own hearts "tending to the same evil." Such is the plot of the enemy!



Let the spider's web catch the fly and the hawk go free, and rest in the certainty of the Lord's justice. Though the wicked prolong their days, they do so like the shadow that prolongs itself in the setting sun—the setting sun that ends only in darkness, and a darkness that is unending. No, our hearts should not be filled with anger but with grief for the end that is to come to those who do not fear the Lord. He will "make them fall to ruin...destroyed in a moment, swept away by terrors" (Psalm 73:18, 19). We should be patient as He is patient (2 Peter 3:9). And for the one who fears the Lord there is great promise that it "will be well" for him! For him it is good to be near God; he has made the Lord God his refuge, that he may tell of all His works (Psalm 73:28).

May we not recount the deeds of the wicked but proclaim the excellencies of the One on whose shoulders the government shall rest, and rejoice in His righteous justice that will one day come.

Questions:

1. How do you tend to respond when watching the news or hearing of the evil that is taking place throughout our nation and across the world?
2. Read Psalm 37:1-8. What four things does King David say to do instead of "fretting" over the "prosperity" of evildoers?