

YAGII
Eccl 8:14-17
The paradox of life

1/11/25

Review

1. To comprehend the ways of the wicked and how evil they are
2. The challenge is to stand in contrast to the wicked by fearing the Lord
3. Cultivating our character in the fear of the Lord

The paradox of life

"There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity." Eccl 8:14

1. Solomon sees the paradox of life
 - a) The just man
 - i) A just man should experience good in his life.
 - ii) But instead, bad things happen to him
 - b) The wicked man
 - i) A wicked man should see bad consequences in his life
 - ii) But instead, good things happen to him
2. Paradoxes are not meant to be explained
3. Vanity of life

Responses to the paradoxes of life

1. There are many possible responses
2. To enjoy life

"So I commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this will remain with him in his labor all the days of his life which God gives him under the sun." Eccl 8:15

 - a) This was one way of approaching these paradoxes
 - b) To commend enjoyment
 - c) Whatever time God has given

d) Due to the uncertainty

3. To seek wisdom

"When I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth, even though one sees no sleep day or night," Eccl 8:16

a) This was another approach of Solomon to life's paradoxes

b) It is to seek wisdom

c) To understand the business of life done on earth

d) Ends with sleeplessness

The work of God

"Then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. For though a man labors to discover it, yet he will not find it; moreover, though a wise man attempts to know it, he will not be able to find it." Eccl 8:17

1. Solomon sought to see things from the standpoint of the work of God

2. The place of faith

Lessons to be learned

1. The challenge to understand that there are no answers to the paradoxes of life

2. Human approaches to these paradoxes are not great, as they are limited

a) Seeking enjoyment

b) Seeking human wisdom

3. The best approach is to trust in God and His work