

**THEN I SAW ALL THE WORK OF GOD**

**Eccl. 8:14-17**

**REVIEW**

1. A wise man makes his face shine
2. Discerning time and judgment
3. Time and judgment
  - a. With regards to the unknown
  - b. With regards to the war with death
  - c. With regards to the wicked
4. The wicked ruler will rule to his own hurt
5. Learning to fear the Lord

**PARADOXES 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. 8:14-17

1. King Solomon continued to see things as vain
2. The just men
  - a. What happens to the just men
  - b. It is according to the works of the wicked
3. The wicked men
  - a. What happens to the wicked
  - b. It happens according to the work of the righteous

**COMMENDING ENJOYMENT**

“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

1. Commending of enjoyment in life
  - a. It is better to enjoy life with what we have
  - b. To enjoy while we can
  - c. Nothing wrong to have enjoyment in life
2. Enjoyment in life
  - a. Nothing better than to eat and to drink

- b. To be merry
3. This will remain with him in his labour

#### **SEEKING TO PERCEIVE THE WORK OF GOD**

“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, 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. 8:16-17

1. Solomon’s great effort to understand the work of God
2. Then he understood the work of God
3. The work of God goes beyond man’s comprehension

#### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

1. Seeing the paradoxes of life
2. Learning to enjoy our life while we can
3. Learning humbly that we cannot fully understand the works of God