

Whoever Said Life Was Fair?

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1.
- B. Prosperity is not always good, and adversity is not always bad.

II. There is a lot of phony righteousness in the world.

- A. Do not be fooled by phony righteousness.
- B. Wisdom gives strength to the wise man.
- C. One is not to become self-righteous in his own wisdom. This is the curse of “churchianity.”
- D. One must take hold of true righteousness without withholding oneself from the world. The one who fears God does this.
- E. All have been infected by the virus of evil. (Romans 3)

III. The true wise man is hard to find.

- A. In seeking the key to life, the author found bitterness not wisdom.
- B. The man found that he was trapped by sexual seductions.
 - 1. Sexual involvement canceled out what it meant to know a woman.
 - 2. Early sex outside of marriage arrests the process of discovery.
- C. Man tries to find happiness apart from God, but it cannot be found.
 - 1. In salvation, a person will become unlike himself.
 - 2. He will obtain a secret knowledge. (I Corinthians 3)
 - 3. God will make his face shine.
 - 4. The hardness of a person’s countenance is changed.
- D. Joy is God’s purpose for us—He wants us to find it in the right purpose and time.

Application questions:

1. What is true righteousness?

2. How can one guard against self-righteousness in the pursuit of wisdom?

3. How does salvation provide for a man's joy? Explain.
