

life is short.

A Study from Ecclesiastes

Sunday, November 4, 2018 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 4: **NOT FAIR, BUT GOOD**

Ecclesiastes 8:9-17

Life is **NOT FAIR**,

Ecclesiastes 8:10-11, 14

Good things happen to bad people. (*v. 10-11, 14*)

Bad things happen to good people. (*v. 14*)

See Job... See Jesus...

but God **IS** good;

Ecclesiastes 8:12-13

Isaiah 55:8-9; 6-7

Psalms 119:68; 107:1; 145:9; 31:19

Job 13:15 - *Though he slay me, I will hope in him.*

Job 23:10 - *But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.*

so work hard, fear Jesus, and **ENJOY LIFE!**

Ecclesiastes 8:15-17

Work hard!

Colossians 3:17, 23-24; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 4:11

Fear Jesus!

John 6:29; 14:15; 1 John 2:3-6; Psalm 56:11

Enjoy life!

1 Timothy 6:6, 17; 4:4; Psalm 66; Psalm 34:8-14; 1 Peter 2:3; 3:10-12

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice!**”
— Philippians 4:4*

1:10 COMMUNITY GROUP **HOMEWORK**

GETTING STARTED

1. What are some things that bring you the most happiness? If you had an afternoon to just “go have fun”, what would you do?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 8:9-17 (NLT)**. Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

DIGGING DEEPER: PSALM 66

3. **Read Psalm 66**. This Psalm invites us to experience joy. How would you describe the experience of joy?
4. The writer of **Psalm 66** calls us to action (**v. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8** and **16**). What does he call us to do? How are each of these behaviors related to the experience or the expression of joy?
5. What does the section in the middle of this psalm (**v. 8–12**) tell us about the cause for this particular expression of joy? How might this kind of experience lead to joy?
6. **Verses 13–15** talk about offering animal sacrifices as an expression of joy and worship. A person’s livestock was the equivalent of our personal bank accounts. How can giving materially be an expression of gratitude and joy?
7. **Verses 16–20** are a more personal account of what the Lord has done. What does the writer say the Lord has done for him? How might this kind of experience lead to joy?
8. In addition to the actions listed in question 4, what ways of expressing joy to God are described in this psalm?
9. What other ways of expressing joy to God would you add?
10. In what ways are joy, praise and worship related?

UP CLOSE

11. It is important to realize that this psalm is not about pretending to be joyful when it is more honest or appropriate to be grieving or angry. What dangers are there in pretending to be joyful when we are not?
12. Why is it important to allow ourselves to experience and express joy?
13. **Make a list of all the gifts God has given you that contribute to your joy.**

This week’s study is from Juanita Ryan, *Praying the Psalms: 9 Studies for Individuals or Groups: With Notes for Leaders*, A LifeGuide Bible Study (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2003), 44–46.

Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them 1:10 Community Groups (the “1:10” comes from Colossians 1:10). The questions here are based on the sermon each week, and guide each group’s study. If you’re interested in connecting with a 1:10 Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

*During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.
Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.*

Neighboring Church

Pray this week for the ministry and people of Milford First Brethren Church and Pastor Lee Compson.

Personal Prayer Items

Word Find for Ecclesiastes 8:14-17 (ESV)

*Find the words **bolded** below.*

14 **There** is a **vanity** that **takes place** on **earth**, that **there** are **righteous people** to whom it **happens according** to the **deeds** of the **wicked**, and **there** are **wicked people** to whom it **happens according** to the **deeds** of the **righteous**. I **said** that this **also** is **vanity**. 15 And I **commend** joy, for man has **nothing better** under the sun but to eat and **drink** and be joyful, for this will go with him in his **toil** through the days of his **life** that God has **given** him under the sun. 16 **When I applied** my heart to **know wisdom**, and to see the **business** that is **done** on **earth**, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, 17 then I saw all the **work** of God, that man **cannot find** out the **work** that is **done** under the sun. However much man may **toil** in seeking, he will not **find** it out. Even though a wise man claims to **know**, he **cannot find** it out.

A	N	L	I	F	E	F	I	W	H	E	N	P
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W	C	U	P	A	L	S	O	C	F	E	I	A
O	C	P	E	I	O	E	M	K	C	A	S	V
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K	I	A	P	P	L	I	E	D	N	T	O	H
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W	S	T	A	K	E	S	S	A	G	H	L	V
T	K	N	O	W	I	S	D	O	M	G	U	D