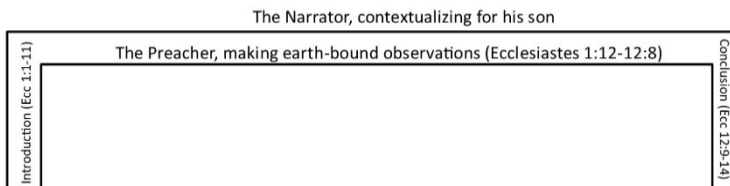




Is It Meaningless to Live a Righteous Life?

Ecclesiastes 7:13-29

Framing Ecclesiastes with a Narrator (Ecclesiastes 1:1, 12:9-14)



The (maybe Chiastic?) Structure of Ecclesiastes 7:13-29

- A. God is Sovereign over Good and Evil (7:13-14)
- B. Warning about Death (7:15-18)
- C. Wisdom Runs Deep (7:19-22)
 - D. Conclusion: Wisdom and Righteousness are Beyond Us
- C. Wisdom Runs Deep (7:23-25)
- B. Warning about Death (7:25-26)
- A. God is Sovereign over Good and Evil (7:27-29)

Sermon Question

Is it meaningless to live a righteous life?

A) God is Sovereign over Good and Evil

7:13-14 – God has made the day of adversity and the day of prosperity

7:27-29 – Man has schemed and corrupted goodness

B) Warning about Death

7:15-18 – Try not to stick out so you don't die

7:25-26 – The snares of a deadly woman

C) Wisdom Runs Deep

7:19-22 – Wisdom is good...

7:23-25 –... but it is beyond us

D) Wisdom and Righteousness are Beyond Us (7:20, 24)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

Read It

Read Ecclesiastes 7:13-29

Open It

When have you seen or observed righteous actions go unrewarded, or even be punished? What did that do in your heart? How does this help us to see where the Preacher is coming from?

Consider It

What do verses 14 and 29 indicate about God's relation to prosperity and adversity, and what role does man play in it?

Verse 15 reminds us of the injustice in the world. How does our perspective on this change based on our understanding of God as Judge?

What would you say to someone who says that there is no justice in the world and thus, there must not be a God, or else He is unconcerned?

Read Matthew 5:20 & 43-48. How does Jesus's assessment of righteousness align with Ecclesiastes 7:16?

While the Preacher tries to strike a balance between good and evil to stay alive longer, how can a believer in Jesus look at the idea differently?

Read Romans 3:9-20. How does this connect with Ecclesiastes 7:20, 27-29?

The Preacher's conclusion about men and women fails to look forward to the righteousness of Jesus, by whom believers are declared righteous. Who are a woman and a man that have had a righteous influence on you?

Live It!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How do you need to seek the Lord, whether in acknowledging your need of Him, repenting of your sin, or of remembering that your righteousness is from Him?