

# LIFE'S UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES

## *Ecclesiastes 8:10-17*

**MAIN IDEA:** There are mysteries of life which may never be fully resolved this side of heaven.

10/11/15

- I. **MYSTERY #1: WHY DO THE WICKED SEEM TO BE IMPROPERLY COMPENSATED IN SPITE OF THEIR WICKEDNESS? (Eccl. 8:10-13)**
- A. *What appears as vanity (8:10-12a): apparent blessing on the wicked (cp. Psa. 73:1-12)*
- Their name *praised* (8:10)
  - Their sin not *punished* (8:11)
  - Their days *prolonged* (8:12)
- B. *What stands as truth (8:12b-13): certain judgment on the wicked (cp. Psa. 37:1, 8-22, 34-38; 73:16-20)*
- *Blessing* on the *righteous*--because they fear God (8:12b)
  - *Judgment* on the *wicked*--because they don't fear God (8:13)
    - *End of wellness*
    - *End of days*
- II. **MYSTERY #2: WHY DOES THE TREATMENT OF MEN NOT SEEM TO BE CLOSELY COMPATIBLE WITH THEIR CHARACTER? (Eccl. 8:14-15)**
- A. *What appears as vanity (8:14): treatment doesn't fit character (cp. Eccl. 2:12-16; 7:15; 9:2-3)*
- The *righteous* experiencing what the *wicked* deserve (8:14a)
  - The *wicked* experiencing what the *righteous* deserve (8:14b)
- B. *What stands as truth (8:15): enjoy the life which God has given (cp. 2:24-26; 3:12-13, 22; 5:18-20; 9:7-9; 11:8-10).*
- Not a *justification* to "live it up" (cp. Luke 12:16-20)
  - An exhortation to *enjoy* life which God has given (cp. I Tim. 6:17)
    - *Accepting life as a special gift from God*
    - *Enjoyment as gift from God even in difficult circumstances*
    - *Thankfulness and contentment instead of complaining*
- III. **MYSTERY #3: WHY DOES THE WORK OF GOD NOT SEEM TO BE CLEARLY COMPREHENDED BY MAN? (Eccl. 8:16-17)**
- A. *What appears as vanity (8:16-17): the inability to comprehend all that God is doing under the sun (cp. 3:11; 7:14, 24, 27-28)*
- The *intensity* of the search: great *effort* given (8:16)
  - The *result* of the search: inability to *find* the answers (8:17)
- B. *What stands as truth (8:17): man's limited knowledge*
- *Admitting* my own lack of *knowledge*
  - *Trusting* and *fearing* God who knows and governs all (cp. 8:12)
- ❖ *Issues unresolved will be resolved someday.*
- ❖ *Justice unenforced will be enforced someday.*
- ❖ *Questions unanswered will be answered someday.*