

Living Life
with a
Realistic View

Ecclesiastes 7:15-29



Summary of Today's Message

Solomon has graduated: Rather than tipping the scales completely towards pessimism, he balances out with realism. This is a realistic view at one of man's most puzzling problems. we will explore the nature of man with undiminished realism and find out what it means to us here and now.

How Solomon Viewed Life

A Perplexing Situation (v. 15)

It sounds a lot like Psalm 73

God, I know you are good, however my feet almost
stumbled I almost gave way because I was envious of the
boastful when I saw the prosperity of the wicked

How Solomon Viewed Life

It bugs me to see this seemingly contradiction

The number one question from a Gallup Poll taken was,
“Why is there suffering in the world?”

Several Different ways some people try to solve this perplexing situation

Atheism-there is evil and so a good loving God is incompatible with the existence of evil thus there is no God

The late **Burton Russell** British philosopher

“I can find no compelling reason to believe
in the existence of God because
there is evil in the world and he said man
“is simply an accident in a backwater
so evil is an accident as the result
of the accident called man”

Several Different ways some people try to solve this perplexing situation

2. Agnosticism-I don't know

A is the Greek prefix for without and then anostos - knowledge

I am without knowledge.

The Latin equivalent of the Greek anosto is ignoramus.

Several Different ways some people try to solve this perplexing situation

3. Deism-reduces God to cause only

Rabbi Harold Kushner

“When Good Things Happen to Bad People”

“God would like people to get what they deserve in life, but He can’t always arrange it-There are just some things God doesn’t control.

And he encourages us the reader to please forgive God for his inadequacies

Poor God he would like to do something about this mess, but He can’t

We refute Kushner's statement.

The believer believes

GOD IS IN CONTROL

Several Different ways some people try to solve this perplexing situation

4. Spiritual Idealism –

Spiritual Idealism is the theology that says evil does exist but if you are a true Christian than you don't have to ever have to face it

Several Different ways some people try to solve this perplexing situation

5. Biblical Realism

Evil is real God is real
and there are many
reasons for the existence of evil

Reasons Why There is Evil in This World

Satan

Because of man's foolishness

God has given us the freedom of choice

People try to defy natural law that God has put in
this world for our benefit

A Promising Solution of a Perplexing Problem

1. Avoid Imbalance (vs.16)

Be not morbidly exacting and externally righteous overmuch neither strife to make yourself pretentiously appear over wise why should you get puffed up and destroy yourself with presumptuous self sufficiency

A Promising Solution of a Perplexing Problem

2. Apply Wisdom (vs.18)

Wisdom strengthens the wise
more than ten rulers of the city.

Psalm 73

Asaph said my feet almost slipped when I was envious of the boastful and have seen the prosperity of the wicked

At the end of that psalm he said until I went into the sanctuary of God and I understood where where they are going to end up-and I wasn't envious of them anymore