

Ecclesiastes 7:15

I have seen everything during my lifetime of futility; there is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his wickedness.

People do not always get what they _____.

People sometimes get the exact _____ of what they deserve.

Ecclesiastes 7:16

Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?

_____ Do not be excessively righteous.

_____ Do not excessively be righteous.

If you think that being righteous and wise _____ a long life, you will be ruined.

Ecclesiastes 7:17

Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time?

“Do not be excessively wicked,” does not mean, “Be a _____ wicked.”

Even though it is sometimes true a wicked person lives a long life, we should not _____ wickedness. The Bible has many examples of people whose lives were _____ because of wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 7:18

It is good that you grasp one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them.

People who fear God grasp _____ and don't let go of the reality that righteousness does not always give you a _____.

God must be allowed to _____ his work.

No matter if you die a young person or you die an old person, you still _____.

The person and work of _____ gives us life beyond our earthly life.

DIGGING DEEPER

(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)

- If God grants you your wish to die at whatever age you choose, what age will you say? Why?
- How do you feel when a righteous man dies young? How do you feel when a wicked man lives a long life?
- Explain, "Do not be excessively righteous."
- Explain, "Do not be excessively wicked."
- What is that which is good for us to grasp? What is that which is good for us to not let go?
- How does Ecclesiastes 7:19–7:22 relate to 7:15–7:18?
- How does your understanding of New Testament salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom of God affect your understanding of this passage?

