

Series: Standing on the Promises

IT SHALL BE WELL WITH THEM
THAT FEAR GOD
ECCLESIASTES 8

Text: Ecclesiastes 8:12

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¹² Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

Introduction:

I saw a program on television some time ago and it referenced an Amtrak accident that occurred in Maryland in 1987.

In that accident, the Amtrak engineer was smoking marijuana and drinking and was not paying attention to the warning lights on the track.

As a result, he allowed his passenger train to collide with a freight train.

In the collision, dozens of people were either seriously injured or killed. The engineer served 5 years in prison.

In Kentucky, a drunk driver hit a church activity bus head on several years ago.

The fuel tank on the bus ruptured and 27 people, mostly teenagers, on the bus were burned to death.

The drunk driver served a nine year sentence and is now free.

Those are horrible incidences, and in each of them it seems like those where the most innocent suffered the greater trial.

As we look around us and see the injustice and trouble coming to good people, we may wonder why, but may we be reminded from God's Word that everything is going to be alright, for we have the promise "It Shall Be Well."

Note:

1. THE PROBLEM THAT BOTHERS US

Ecclesiastes 8:12-14

¹² Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: ¹³ But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God. ¹⁴ There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.

- (Verse 12) reminds us of the age old question that has plagued the heart of man since the dawn of time: "*Why do the righteous suffer while the wicked prosper?*"
- **(Verse 14)** clearly lays out the problem experienced by the Preacher. This is a question that is addressed many times in the word of God.

Ecclesiastes 8:14

¹⁴ There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.

The idea that serving God brings with it immunity from trials has caused many suffering saints to become disillusioned and causing them to quit serving the Lord.

Serving the Lord does bring with it many benefits.

If you are saved, you are the partaker of a list of benefits that is too long to mention.

However, most of them are spiritual in nature, while most of our trials happen in the physical realm.

That is why we often have a problem accepting the things that come our way.

If we are not careful, when the trials of life begin to multiply in our lives, we might come to the same conclusion that the preacher came to in Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 1:2

²Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 2:23

²³For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

We have discussed the problem, and it is a problem that we all deal with at one time or another.

Now, let's allow the Lord to help us to achieve the proper perspective on this subject.

Notice what the Lord said in John 16:33

John 16:33

³³ These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Notice:

2. THE PROMISE THAT BLESS US

Even though the wicked seem to prosper and the righteous seem to be bearing unjust burdens, things will eventually work out for those who love the Lord. He seems to be reminding us that even our trials have the ability to be turned into triumphs.

Illustration:

A man who was deep in debt had to walk past the door of a wealthy businessman each day.

The rich man, who had no idea what it was like to be poor, learned of the debt-ridden man's plight and observed that he seemed very discouraged.

One day, as the poor man walked by, the wealthy man threw a heavy bag out the door.

It struck the passerby, slightly injuring him.

Seeing no one around, he picked up the bag and began to limp away.

As he did, he heard the clinking of coins.

He opened the bag and to his amazement found enough money to pay off his debt.

Just then he heard a voice from the businessman's door, calling, "Keep it; it's yours."

Sometimes troubles hit us like that heavy bag, knocking us down and causing us injury.

But God can bring great gain into our lives through these burdens and trials.

I'm thrilled to know that all is going to be well.

Note some areas of life where the devil likes to tell us that we are wasting our time and that things are not going to work out, and that all is vanity.

A. Trials

When the burdens of life begin to pile up on us, there is a tendency to want to throw in the towel.

Let me just remind you that the Lord is working in your life and Everything Is Going To Be All Right, It Shall Be Well.

B. Salvation

How many times has the devil, or your own flesh, tried to tell you that you are wasting your time trying calling yourself a Christian? How many times has the devil tried to convince you that you were not saved? Now, I don't know if you are saved or not, but I can say that if you have trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, then you have some wonderful promises that tell you clearly that Everything's Going To Be All Right, It Shall Be Well.

John 10:28

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Hebrews 7:25

²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Romans 8:1

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

John 5:24

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 6:37

³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

C. Church

We are living in a day when people, even those who claim to be saved, are turning away from the church. If we aren't careful, we will allow the devil, and our own foolish thinking convince us that the church is in trouble and that she's going down.

I want to remind you that Everything's Going to Be All Right, "It Shall Be Well" where the church is concerned!

Remember what Jesus said: "*...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*"

There will be times when the church will walk through the valley, but we must learn to keep our eyes on Jesus and He will bring us through that valley.

D. Future

One of the greatest worries that occupies our minds concerns this question: What will happen in the future?

We spend much of our time worrying about what might happen. Well, let me just tell you this evening that Everything's Going to Be All Right in the future!

Hebrews 13:5

⁵Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Whatever the future may hold for you, remember that your Heavenly Father has personally designed your future and whatever comes your way first had to receive His divine approval!

Close:

Someone once said, "Sorrow can lead us into one of four lands: the barren land in which we try to escape from it; the broken land in which we sink under it; the bitter land in which we resent it; or the better land in which we bear it and become a blessing to others."

I wonder where our trials are leading us?

Do you really believe that everything's going to be all right?

If there are doubts, why not let the Heavenly Father soothe them?

He can help you to safely navigate the troubled waters of trial and affliction.

There is a story told about a certain handicapped high school student. Although the crutches on which he hobbled kept him from being physically active, he excelled in his studies and was well liked by his peers.

They saw the problems he had getting around, and they sometimes felt sorry for him, but for a long time nobody asked him why he had this difficulty.

One day, his closest friend finally did.

"It was polio," answered the student.

The friend responded, "With so many difficulties, how do you keep from becoming bitter?"

Tapping his chest with his hand, the young man replied with a smile, "***Oh, it never touched my heart.***"

I say with the certainty of God's Word "It Shall be Well."