

**Chapter summary** – *Chapter eight is a continuation of chapter seven.*

§ § § § § § § § § § § § § § §

IV. In Solomon's search for an answer to his question, he now tells us how to live for that which exists above the sun, (Ch. 7:1-12:7)

### **1. SOLOMON DESCRIBES FOR US THE BEST WAY TO BENEFIT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM OUR LIFE UNDER THE SUN, (7:1-12:7)**

**1) Solomon details the real value of wisdom that is from God, (7:1-9:18)**

**(5) God's wisdom enables us to recognize and submit to authority, (8:2-13)**

**1a Recognizing and submitting to civil authority, (2-5)**

**1b Civil authorities are ordained of God, (2)**

#### **INTERPRETATION:**

<sup>2</sup> **I say** (even though this world is so unstable, you would be wise to), "**Keep the king's commandment** (submit to him), **for the sake of your oath** (or faithfulness), **to God**, (as all higher authorities are ordained of God and are His ministering servants).<sup>1</sup>

**2b Civil authorities are to be respected, (3-5)**

<sup>3</sup> **Do not be hasty to go from his presence**, (think carefully before you get all upset and quit, leave in a huff or try to defy the king or his authorities—we could also include in principle, anyone in authority over you). **Do not take your stand** (if you feel you must take one), **for an evil thing** (for a wrong cause, for

#### **NOTES:**

#### **COMMENTARY:**

<sup>1</sup> This principle does not change in the New Testament. God tells us in Romans 13:1-7 tells us. "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor."

Christ said, "...Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Mt 22:21b

something that even God says is wrong.<sup>2</sup> If you have, stop now), **for he** (the king), **does whatever pleases him**,” (which includes concerning you<sup>3</sup>).

**Listen to this patient who was very careful as to when to take a stand with his surgeon. "I want you to know in advance," the surgeon told his patient, "that I get my patients up and around very quickly. Three hours after surgery you will sit up, five hours later you will stand up, and the next morning you will walk around with the assistance of a nurse. That afternoon you will start to walk again unaided."**

**"All right," replied the patient. "I guess you know what you are doing, but I have a request to make."**

**"What is it?" the surgeon asked.**

**"Would it be OK," asked the patient, "if I lie down a little while during the operation?"**

This is an exaggeration of course, but we do need to be careful when we challenge authority, (e.g., boss, officer, judge, teacher, parent, etc.). Think it through from not only your perspective, but from theirs as well.

- ⊗ Maybe you don't like a job or an evaluation your boss gives you—but, is it full of lies and or prejudice?
- ⊗ Maybe you don't like a rule or a task your parent gives you—but, is there anything ungodly about it?
- ⊗ Maybe you don't like an assignment a teacher gives you—but, whose option is it, even responsibility, to help you learn?

<sup>4</sup> **Where the word of a king is, there is power** (what he says, goes, his word is the law); **and who may say to him, "What are you doing?"** (Who in their right mind is going to challenge frivolously him!?)

<sup>5</sup> **He who keeps his command** (lit., "*observes the mouth*"—hears what the king says and is faithful to him), **will experience nothing harmful** (obviously the probability is better if he is a king that honors God—but even if he is not, from a spiritual point of view it will keep harm away from you at judgment); **and a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment** (*Time*, is in the sense that there is a time for everything as mentioned in Ecclesiastes 3, and you ought to be continually discerning what time it is for. [Be sure it is time for a battle or war, if you are about to create one. It may be time for peace.] *Judgment*, is in the sense that man's every work and thought [yours and the kings], will ultimately be brought into

<sup>2</sup> Don't ask your parent, spouse, teacher or boss to do or to allow you to do something that you and God knows is wrong. Some things are debatable, and some are not.

<sup>3</sup> You can get yourself in big trouble if you do. You could easily find yourself in bigger trouble that you may already be in.

Judgment, scrutiny and each will be rewarded accordingly by God's evaluation of how well each person discerned the times.)<sup>4</sup>

**NOTES:**

## **2a Recognizing and submitting to divine authority, (6-13)**

### **1b God evaluates who does what, (6a)**

<sup>6</sup> **Because for every matter there is a time** (a proper action to take and thoughts to entertain), **and judgment** (will be passed on them all—everyone will be rewarded accordingly with heaven or hell; with gold silver, and precious stones or wood, hay and stubble),<sup>5</sup>

### **2b God takes notice of how what one does affects others, (6b)**

**One of the problems with doing things right, but suffering negative consequences for it—is the feelings of injustice, (e.g., anger, bitterness, apathy, resentment, wanting justice). If a person wrongs us and is brought before an earthly authority, he may get past him and away with his offence. BUT, God is going to show us that they will not get past Him.**

**though the misery of man** (while he lives on the earth, in a broken sinful world, with good and evil kings), **increases greatly**, (weighs heavily upon him, day after day—as would a godly wife under an ungodly husband).<sup>6</sup>

### **3b God gives no time to prepare a defense, (7)**

<sup>7</sup> **For** (whether one does the right or wrong thing in its time), **he does not know what will happen** (he doesn't know what the consequences will be here on earth); **so who can tell him when it** (the judgment where God will put all things in proper order), **will occur?** (nobody knows when judgment will come, we just know that it will come [cf., 3:22; 6:12; 10:14; 1 Thess. 5:2-4])

---

<sup>4</sup> God leads Solomon to wrap up this entire book in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, saying, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."

Think of how David honored Saul, but only received grief for it. Yet David always made peace. Saul was God's ordained authority even though he did not honor God. What kind of judgment do you think David will receive when his life is evaluated concerning this matter?

<sup>5</sup> God will let us know in the end how well we have done. What have your actions, thoughts, motives and attitudes been about or like today?

<sup>6</sup> God sees the injustices you suffer. He sees the misery others put you through. He knows how these things affect you—and He remembers.

**4b God grants no exemptions, (8a)**

<sup>8</sup> **No one** (whether the king or the servant), **has power** (mastery), **over the** (human), **spirit** (the breath of life that God breathed into man [Gen. 2:7;]—so as), **to retain the spirit** (to not let it depart and thus escape death), **and no one has power in the day of death** (to dodge judgment—the day of death and judgment are appointed).<sup>7</sup> **There is no release from that war** (of wanting to live and not die. When God determines the day of our death, nothing can stop it; our spirit will return back to God, [cf., Ecc. 5:15; 6:12; 12:7]),<sup>8</sup>

**5b God cannot be swayed, (8b)**

A little boy was sitting on the school bus telling his friend, “At breakfast I told my mom that my stomach hurt, I was dizzy and my throat was sore. She didn’t buy it so I guess I’ll have to take the test now.”

**and wickedness will not deliver those** (then at death), **who are given to it**, (No matter how much their wicked deeds have may have benefited them while they lived—No matter how or how many times they changed, twisted, or ignored the rules for their benefit—No matter how many political, authoritative and influential people they were able to put in their pocket—God cannot be bribed, tricked, silenced or threatened. Only that which is good and just will prevail in the end. The temporary, brief misery of the righteous will end then, never to return again for all eternity. But, the overdue, just misery of the wicked will really begin then, never to end for all eternity. During their lifetime, some of the justice they deserved was only momentarily postponed).<sup>9</sup>

**6b God gives everyone fair warning and then allows each person to make his own choices, (9)**

Jack, while painting on a scaffold, dropped his paintbrush. As he leaned over the rail to watch his brush fall, he yelled to his co-worker, “Quack, quack, gobble, gobble.”

The brush hit his co-worker on the head and he yelled, “Why didn’t you warn me!

“I did,” Jack replied. “I yelled ‘Quack, quack, gobble, gobble.’”

“What kind of warning is that?” his co-worker hollered angrily.

“Duck, turkey!” Jack answered.

**I am thankful that God’s warnings are a lot clearer than that.**

<sup>7</sup> ...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: He 9:27

<sup>8</sup> Job said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” Job 1:21

<sup>9</sup> God remembers what others do to you and how it affected you. If the offender never repents of it and asks your forgiveness, God will deal with it at judgment. It will be made right.

<sup>9</sup> **All this I have seen** (witnessed), **and applied my heart to** (reflected on), **every work that is done under the sun**: (In doing so, Solomon realizes that), **There is a time** (or are times), **in which one man rules over another to his own hurt**, (i.e., however anyone treats another person, in this case a leader, he will be justly compensated later on, by our heavenly Leader. If the earthly leader is cruel, he will be the one in misery at judgment. It will not go well for him. For the unbeliever it is eternal judgment in Hell. For the believer it is the loss of heavenly rewards).

**The only way to judge the future is by the past, but if some people are judged that way, they won't have any future.**

### 7b God's verdict if final, (10)

<sup>10</sup> **Then I saw** (with greater understanding than ever before), **the wicked buried, who had come** (into this world by way of God—providing the breath of life), **and gone from the place of holiness** (who could not go home to Him, having died in their sin—when the breath of life was taken from their body), **and** (to make matters worse—as prominent as they may have been, for good or bad reasons), **they were forgotten** (even), **in the city where they had so done** (where they had lived and were known best). **This also is vanity**, (i.e., the life of the wicked. No matter how glorious it may have been, because judgment is certain, it ends up in a horrible way).

### 8b God's patience should not be mistaken as being lax, (11, 12a)

<sup>11</sup> **Because the sentence** (judgment), **against an evil work** (one commits), **is not executed speedily**, (while one lives out his life on earth), **therefore** (because they seem to benefit from their evil work rather than get punished for it), **the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to** (continue to), **do evil**, (having met no opposition, and only concerned with his present desire, the evil doer not only sees more forbidden fruit to be picked, but is bolder than ever in picking it).<sup>10</sup>

<sup>12</sup> (Remember that even), **Though a sinner does evil a hundred times** (time after time after time, to his present harm, without just retribution), **and his days are prolonged** (he lives to be a rich, influential and happy old man—his days are numbered),

<sup>10</sup> ...“The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, Ex 34:6

...You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth. Ps 86:15

...do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? Ro 2:4

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Pe 3:9

## 9b God's judgment will be just, (12b-13)

## NOTES:

**yet I surely know that** (without any doubt whatsoever), **it will be well** (in the end, at death), **with** (only), **those who fear God** (those who have such a high reverence for God that their temptations and troubles cannot separate them from their love and devotion for Him, nor prejudice them towards Him), **who fear before Him**, (now, rather than wait and only fear God on judgment day).<sup>11</sup>

<sup>13</sup> **But** (on the other had), **it will not be well** (in the end, at death), **with the wicked** (who die in their wickedness, their sin); **nor will he prolong his days** (forever), **which are as a shadow** (a vapor, no matter how many they may be, compared to eternity), **because he does not fear before God**, (because he did not fear God during his lifetime and therefore did not confess and repent of his sin, asking forgiveness, but boldly persisted in it).<sup>12</sup>

Warren Wiersbe says, "Until Jesus Christ sets up His righteous kingdom, there will always be injustices in our world. It is one of the 'vanities' of life, and we must accept it without becoming pessimistic or cynical."<sup>13</sup>

**Steve Lawson relates a story about Dr. Harry Ironside: "At approximately age 13, young Ironside was employed by a cobbler named Dan. Harry's responsibility at work was to take the pelts used in making shoes out of a vat and place them on an anvil. Then he had to beat the water out of them with a wooden mallet.**

**"This process was very time-consuming. It was work that was best described as drudgery. And, as a 13-year-old, Dr. Ironside couldn't recommend it to anyone.**

**"One day young Harry Ironside was walking down the street. He looked in the window of another cobbler shop. He saw that cobbler take a pelt out of the vat and simply shake the water out of it. He then laid it over his lap and cut out a shoe. This competitor completely neglected the tedious work of beating the water out.**

**"Harry was most intrigued by this. So he walked into the cobbler shop and asked the owner, 'Mister, how come you don't beat the water out of your pelts like Dan down the street? I work for Dan, and he makes me work long and hard to pound the water out.'**

---

<sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Ps 37:11

"Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Is 3:10

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Mt 25:23

<sup>12</sup> But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it. Pr 2:22

He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. Pr 29:1

<sup>13</sup> Wiersbe, *Be Satisfied*, Ec 8:10. Logos.

**"The cobbler answered, 'Well, that process is very time-consuming. Also, shoes made like this don't last as long, so my customers will come back to buy shoes more often.'**

**"To the young mind of a 13-year-old, that sounded like pretty sound logic--especially to one with a sore right arm from pounding the water out.**

**"Harry went to talk to Dan about this. He told him what the cobbler down the street had told him. Then he asked Dan, 'Why do you have me go to all the trouble of pounding the water out of the pelts?'**

**"Dan took his apron off and hung it on the nail in the wall. He said, 'Harry, I need to talk to you.' So they sat down together.**

**"'Harry, I'm a Christian,' Dan explained. 'I know that one day I will stand before the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ.**

**There, every pair of shoes that I have ever made will be in a large pile. At that time, the Lord and I will go over every pair of shoes that I have ever made. Jesus will say, "Dan you brought your stitches too close to the sole here. We'll have to discard this pair. Then, "This pair, the nails are just right. Good work! We put this pair over here on this stack." Or "here's one that made perfectly. We'll put it on the right side."**

**"'Then He'll pick up another pair. He will say, "Dan, you brought your stitches too close to the edge of the sole here. We'll have to discard that pair.'"**

**"This illustrates why it is so important for us to take inventory of our lives today. One day--on that final day--we will stand before the Lord, and He will evaluate the work we've done for Him."**

**[When All Hell Breaks Loose by Steven Lawson. , 1993. Pages 196-197.]**

The day of judgment is coming for us all. Consider this, even with all the injustices you have, are, and will continue to suffer—don't count on everyone else getting their dues, count on you paying your own. Pray that the offenders in your life and in the lives of those you love, will repent of their sin. That they will make things right before it is too late and God has to do it for them. Pray that you will do the same for those you have offended.

One of the biggest hurdles for believers to overcome is the pain that is caused when they try to do everything in a way that honors God and all they seemingly get in return is grief. The temptation is to tell God to take a hike. If that is the way He is going to treat you, you don't want anything to do with Him, then. But, that would be so wrong, and God wants us to know that. Remember, don't expect the results you would get in a perfect world when you live in a broken one. God says that He has ordained authorities to make things right when they go wrong, but if they don't, you will suffer misery. He has also clearly told us that He will deal with it later and make it right. Life under the sun is still vanity! But there is a way to rise above it like our Savior Jesus Christ did. Jesus didn't expect or receive perfect results as He faithfully served the Father either, and He sure didn't. Press on to the end, brethren. Keep the faith. Fight the fight.

**(6) God's wisdom enables us to recognize that all of life's mysteries will not be understood this side of Heaven, (8:14-17)**

NOTES:

- ⊖ What are your chances of putting six pairs of socks in the washer or dryer and getting six pairs of socks back after they are washed or dried? Where they disappear to is a mystery.
- ⊖ Not who has, but how many times! have you taken your car to the garage to get fixed only to have the car purr like a kitten for the mechanic, but do the jitterbug as you drive it back home? It's a mystery.
- ⊖ Why is it that the lane next to you seems to always be moving twice as fast as your lane, but when you FINALLY almost FORCE your way into it, you notice that the lane you left is now moving twice as fast? It's a mystery.
- ⊖ How many times have you been absolutely awestruck when you drop something you need or don't want to lose, and watch it roll to the opposite side of the room, around, through, under and over a myriad of obstacles until it stuffs itself into the most difficult place in the world to be retrieved from, but if you drop something you could care less about, in the same place, in the same way, even at the same time, it sticks like glue to the floor at your feet? It's a mystery.

God is going to teach us through Solomon, about mysteries in this next section of chapter eight. When you are absolutely awestruck, completely mystified at what God does or allows at times, forget about figuring it out. You don't stand a prayer, at least this side of glory. But, there are some things God says we can do.

**1a An example of one of life's mysteries, (14a)**

<sup>14</sup> **There is a** (or another), **vanity which occurs on earth** (that is about as easy to get a grasp on as the wind, which is), **that there are just men** (people who love and faithfully serve God), **to whom it happens** (or who are rewarded for their devotion), **according to the work of the wicked** (i.e., they receive the recompense that a criminal should receive for his crime—then); **again, there are wicked men** (who do not love or serve God), **to whom it happens** (or who are rewarded for their wickedness), **according to the work of the righteous**, (i.e., they receive the recompense that a godly person should receive for his virtue).

**2a The deduction of mysteries like this, (14b)**

**I said that this also is vanity**, (it's crazy, outrageous, incomprehensible! How can this be when we serve an all powerful, sovereign God?!)<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> Merrill Unger provides some excellent food for thought as he comments on this verse saying, "We must not be tempted to charge God with iniquity, but rather we should charge the world with vanity." (Unger, *Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament*, p. 1095).



### 3a The recommendation concerning life's mysteries, (15)

#### 1b Choose to maintain a sense of humor, (15a)

Now they say that when you go on a diet the first thing you lose is your sense of humor. So, for some of you this may be a really tough one.

<sup>15</sup> **So** (in response to this mind bending mystery), **I commended enjoyment** (the idea behind this phrase is that Solomon is counseling us that we maintain a sense of humor rather than become cynical, bitter, depressed, constantly angry and negative concerning the enigmas of life.)

**“But I want to be angry!”** you may be thinking. That’s fine. It’s your prerogative, but God’s telling us all that it is not the way to get the most out of life in this broken world.

You see, a genuine sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to our steps as we walk the tightrope of life. Just as a tightrope walker is at a great disadvantage without a pole, so is the person who tries to get through life’s crazy, outrageous, incomprehensible mysteries without a sense of humor. A good laugh is every bit as therapeutic as a good cry. There is a time to cry and a time to laugh. Knowing the time it is for is the key, and acting on it.

#### 2b Choose to enjoy the simple things in life, (15b)

**because a man** (really), **has nothing better under the sun** (in comparison to the enigmas of life here on earth), **than to eat, drink, and be merry** (Solomon isn’t promoting hedonism here. He is telling us to rejoice and be glad in the simple but predictable pleasures of life that no one can take from us. If we miss out on them it is our own fault, no matter what our circumstances are.);

#### 3b Choose to continue to live godly, (15c)

**for** (the reason being), **this will remain with him** (no one can take it from him), **in** (addition to, not in the absence of), **his labor** (the idea being that this simple enjoyment will accompany him, encourage him, aid him, keep him from going crazy—in the faithful labor he performs, the godly attitudes he holds and the Christlike values he lives by), **all the days of his life** (every single day, all day long),

One of the great cathedrals in Milan, Italy, has a beautiful triple-door entrance. All three portals are crowned by splendid arches artistically carved with thought-provoking inscriptions. Over one, etched in stone, is a wreath of roses with the words: "All which pleases is but for a moment." Over another is sculpted the outline

of a cross accompanied by this engraving: "All which troubles is but for a moment." On the largest doorway - the great central entrance to the main sanctuary - is chiseled the most impressive thought of all: "That only is important which is eternal."

Whether you receive what is pleasing to you and what you deserve, or whether you receive what you believe is troublesome and what you don't deserve, in this life on earth, both are temporary. The only thing that is important is what is eternal; the labors of a godly life. Godly living today, will pay big dividends all through eternity.

#### 4b Choose to accept God's lot for you, (15d)

which God gives (grants upon), him under the sun, (during his life here on earth).<sup>15</sup>

#### 4a The revelation concerning life's mysteries, (16)

Now, God sets out to cut anybody off at the pass that may be thinking, "No! There has to be more than all that choosing you can do. There has got to be a way to figure these mysteries out. I refuse to think there isn't." God plainly tells us it is impossible to figure out these mysteries.

#### 1b No matter how motivated you may be, you will not understand the mysteries of God, (16a)

<sup>16</sup> When I applied my heart to know wisdom (to figure out why God allows things to happen as they do, as well as how the results relate to His good pleasure), and to see the business that is done (by divine providence), on earth (to by wisdom see if there is a definite scheme to them, a consistent system by which the affairs on earth are divinely administered. Solomon was motivated by that idea. He wanted more than anything, to possess that kind of wisdom.)

**Motivation is a powerful force. Many good and evil individuals have significantly changed the world as we know it. Some for the better, some for the worse. But still, as powerful as motivation is, it not enough to gain an understanding of God's wisdom. You may want more than anything to understand a mystery that has taken place in your life, but that motivation is not enough to accomplish the task.**

<sup>15</sup> this is not Epicurean hedonism based on despair but is a note of submission. Man cannot control or predict adversity or prosperity; however, each day's joys should be received as gifts from God's hand and be savored as God permits ( 3:13 ; 5:19 ). (Walvoord, Zuck, and Dallas Theological Seminary. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*, Logos, Ecc 8:15)

**2b No matter if you could devote 24 hours of every day to the task, you will not understand the mysteries of God, (16b-17a)**

even though one sees no sleep day or night (sometimes going for a day or more without sleep),

**3b No matter if you can see what God does, you will not understand the mysteries of God, (17a)**

<sup>17</sup> **then** (as a result of this search), **I saw all the work of God** (that God does in the way that only He can do it and Solomon determined), **that a man cannot find out the work that is done** (a man cannot discover the key to how God thinks and works), **under the sun**, (“I can see it,” Solomon says, “but I can’t figure it out. It is too mystifying. I can’t make sense of it. I can’t see the logic in it.”)

**4b No matter how industrious or ingenious you may be, you will not understand the mysteries of God, (17b)**

For though a man labors (with industry and/or genius, with a team or alone, day and night, week after week, month after month, year after year), to discover it, yet he will not find it (it will elude him as well);

**5b No matter how worldly wise you may be, you will not understand the mysteries of God, (17c)**

**moreover** (not only that), **though a wise man** (wise in other areas of life), **attempts to know it, he will not be able to find it**, (either. God’s ways are higher and not only that, He is not tied even to His former ways. God’s wisdom allows Him to work in an incalculable variety of ways in allowing man to exercise his free will and at the same time accomplishing His divine will. His capabilities are way beyond what we could ever hope to understand).

Warren Wiersbe says concerning this passage, “A confession of ignorance is the first step toward true knowledge. “And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know” (1 Cor. 8:2, NKJV). The person who wants to learn God’s truth must possess honesty and humility. Harvard philosopher Alfred North Whitehead said, “Not ignorance, but ignorance of ignorance, is the death of knowledge [i.e., not knowing how ignorant you are of the way things really are and why they are that way prevents you from

attaining any pure, unadulterated knowledge], ...Historian Will Durant surveyed human history in his multivolume *Story of Civilization* and came to the conclusion that “our knowledge is a receding mirage in an expanding desert of ignorance.”<sup>16</sup>

**NOTES:**

**During a walk my wife and I were on, I notices several wooly caterpillars crossing the road. Most of them were going straight across, but a few were going with the road. If they stayed on that course, their journey was going to be hard, hot, and dangerous. They needed to change their course or their journey was going to be filled with vanity. So must the person who is trying to figure out the mysteries in his or her life, if the individual doesn't, his life will be filled with as much vanity as the caterpillar walking with the road.**

---

<sup>16</sup> Wiersbe, *Be Satisfied*, Ecc 8:15. Logos

 **INTERPRETATION:**

**F** **APPLICATION:**

 **COMMENTARY:**