

Ecclesiastes

Why Isn't Life Fair?

"I looked again all the injustice that goes on in this world." Eccl. 4:1 (GN)

A. The _____: Life Is _____!

1. Criminals go _____.

"Why do people commit crimes? Because crime is not punished quickly enough." 8:11 (GN)

2. The oppressed are _____.

"Then I looked again at all the injustice that goes on in this world. The oppressed were crying and no one would help them ... their oppressors had power on their side." 4:1 (GN)

3. Politicians are _____.

"If you see... miscarriage of justice anywhere throughout the land, don't be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up, and the higher officials look up to their superiors. And so the matter is lost in red tape and bureaucracy." 5:8 (LB)

"Here is an injustice I have seen ... an injustice caused by rulers. Stupid people are given positions of authority." 10:5-6 (GN)

4. Good people are _____.

"There is something else meaningless... righteous men who get what the wicked deserve and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve." 8:14

5. Capable people are _____.

"In this world fast runners do not always win the races... wise men don't always earn a living, intelligent men don't always get rich, and capable men don't always rise to high positions." 9:11 (GN)

B. The _____: Why Does God _____ It _____?

1. Because He gives us the freedom to _____.

(God says) "I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse..." Deut. 11:26

2. Because _____ is coming.

"In due season God will judge everything man does, both good and bad." Eccl. 3:17 (LB)

3. To show us we need a _____.

"There is no one on earth who does what is right all the time and never sins." Eccl. 7:20

"God is letting the world go on its sinful way so he can test mankind, and so that men will see that they are no better than beasts." Eccl. 3:18 (LB)

"We all have sinned... yet now God declares us 'not guilty' ... if we trust in Jesus Christ who freely takes away our sins." Rom. 3:23-24 (LB)

4. Because pain can develop _____.

"... suffering produces character ..." Rom. 5:4

C. My _____ : How Should I _____ ?

1. _____ that life is unfair.

"In the world you will have trouble." John 16:33

2. Do the _____ thing _____!

"Learn to do right. See that justice is done, help those who are oppressed." Isa. 1:17

3. _____ for God's _____.

"These ... temporary troubles are winning for us a permanent reward out of all proportion to our pain." 2 Cor.5:17 (Ph)

How do we get these rewards?

1. _____ that I am not _____.

2. Let _____ settle the _____.