

## Accepting the Good & the Bad

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by Wayne Goff

*“Consider the work of God; for who can make straight what He has made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, so that man can find out nothing that will come after him” (Eccl. 7:13-14).*

The philosophy of life held by many is that things just happen! There is no reason nor rhyme to any of it. As a child, I remember hearing a song on the radio: *“Que sera, sera, whatever will be, will be. The future’s not ours to see. Que sera sera.”* While it is true that we cannot see the future and some things in our lives are immutable, we should not mistakenly think that life is one long list of coincidences!

Solomon points out that when we rejoice in the day of prosperity, we must also be willing to *“consider”* in the day of adversity. **Why?** Because God has appointed both kinds of days in the lives of mankind. It is unwise to wish only to accept the good without accepting the bad. There is value and purpose to both! We do not know what the future holds, as someone once said, but we do know who holds the future.

Furthermore, we cannot think life is fair and equitable. It is not. Solomon went on to write: *“I have seen everything in my days of vanity: there is a just man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs life in his wickedness”* (Eccl. 7:15). The New Testament is full of *martyrs* for the cause of Christ (Rev. 6:9-10). Jesus Christ Himself died an *unjust* death (Is. 53:8-9). Life is not fair. So long as we live in a moral environment in which men are permitted to choose good or evil, then life will not be fair. That does **not** mean that God will not rectify matters either in this world (Rom. 12:19) or in the one to come (2 Cor. 5:10). But men do not always get their just recompense *immediately*.

The book of Ecclesiastes has many wise thoughts for living your life properly “under the sun.” I would advise all of us to read it from time to time.

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