



## But God, It Isn't Fair!

Text: Ecclesiastes 8:1 – 9:18

Series: Escaping Futility, Enjoying Fulfillment,

The Book of Ecclesiastes, #6

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**Theme: Use God's resources to defeat the frustrations of living in this unfair world.**

**The frustration-producing situations: God's expectations for us in this unfair world.**

1. Submit to governments—although they are unjust at times. (8:2-9)
2. Live righteously—although evil is not quickly punished. (8:10-14)
3. Trust God—although you don't know all of His detailed plans. (8:16 - 9:6)

**The fulfillment-producing solution: use God's resources for living in this unfair world.**

1. Accept God's gift of joy to brighten your days. (8:15, 9:7-9)
2. Accept God's gift of wisdom to brighten your path. (8:1, 9:13-18)
3. Accept God's gift of strength to bring you success. (9:10-12)

## In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

**Monday.** We all know that life is not fair. Read 8:1-15, and also go back to the outline notes for the three examples of things King Solomon includes here in that category. Now make a list of the unfair things that concern or trouble you. Write a brief description of how you deal with each of them.

**Tuesday.** God provides resources for living in an unfair world. One of those is His gift of joy or happiness which can be received in all circumstances. Check 8:15 and 9:7-9. Now go back to 2:24-26, 3:22 and 5:18-20 (you can look back to your notes from those messages as well). Couple these with John 15:11 and Psalm 118:24. How are you doing in receiving God's joy to combat the frustrations of things that are not fair?

**Wednesday.** God's wisdom is another of His gifts to brighten your path — see 8:1 and 9:13-18. We have mentioned the truth of James 1:5-8 a number of times. One of the keys here is our own disciplined seeking and relying on God's wisdom. How have you specifically sought and relied on God's wisdom today?

**Thursday.** God also gives His strength to bring success in this unfair world. How do you define success? Read 9:10-12 for perspective and your responsibility here. As well, check out 2 Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 3:16, Philippians 4:11-13 and Colossians 1:11.

**Friday – Saturday.** As we enter the final stretch in this look at Ecclesiastes, next week we plan to consider 10:1 - 12:8. Read through this section in preparation for our time together on Sunday.