



[Ecclesiastes 7:15-18](#)

(15) All *things* I have seen in the days of my vanity; there is a just man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked one who prolongs *life* in his wickedness. (16) Do not be righteous over much, neither make yourself overly wise; why should you destroy yourself? (17) Do not be overly wicked, and do not be a fool; why should you die before your time? (18) *It is good* that you should take hold of this; yea, also from this do not withdraw your hand; for he who fears God shall come forth from them all.

A Faithful Version

We need to realize that, if we do not understand a paradoxical situation in which we are involved and then handle it improperly, the quality of our relationship with God—and therefore the quality of our lives—may suffer. Such a circumstance is much more difficult to discern if one is personally involved.

The danger does not always have to be one involving a paradox. It can be any exceptionally difficult, personal trial, one that never seems to end. When involved in such a trial, we are not merely observing it but are deeply enmeshed in it.

Despite any seeming irregularities in the situation, we can be certain that the great purposes of [God](#) are being accomplished. But more direct involvement makes our choices and judgment more difficult and damaging because of our emotional ties to both God and the paradox. Therefore, because his [faith](#) is in God, the righteous person will wisely and humbly accept that the irregularities will pass, and all the vanities of [this world](#) will also pass with them. The wise will [patiently](#) endure the irregularities of this world as a momentary glitch in comparison to eternity. He can do this if he fully understands some important factors a person might fear.

Thus, [wisdom](#) says, “This is a situation I cannot truly change. I will not let this seeming injustice dominate my life because more is going on here than meets my eye.” He will ask himself, “Is there anything I can do to help my judgment so this doesn't destroy my

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Ecclesiastes 7:15-18 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
attitude and with it my faith and fear of God?"

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Ecclesiastes and Christian Living \(Part Ten\): Paradox](#)

Related Topics:

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[Ecclesiastes and Christian Living Paradox](#)

[Irregularities](#)

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[Paradoxical Situation](#)

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