



Finding Meaning in a ‘Woody Allen World

Ecclesiastes 8:10-17

Listen! Woody Allen says that life is a “terrifying flicker.”

- **Tension—we live in a “Woody Allen” world:** Outcomes in our world are not always right, fair, and just. Outcomes are not always predictable and sane.

Question #1. What should we do in a “Woody Allen World” where consequences are not always well timed? (Verses 10-13)

- **Answer:** We should fear God greatly.

Question #2. What should we do in a “Woody Allen World” where outcomes don’t always match lifestyles? (Verses 14, 15)

- **Answer:** We should enjoy to the fullest the days that God gives to us.

Question #3. What should we do in a “Woody Allen World” where we cannot discover many of the reasons and motives and works? (Verses 16, 17)

- **Answer:** We should be assured that God is still working.

The Bottom Line: In a world of moral craziness and fickle outcomes (at least in the short run) we should:

...fear God greatly.

...enjoy to the fullest the days that God has given to us.

...be assured that God is still working.

For now we live by faith, not by sight: The Bar J Chuck Wagon and the great reversal.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

The Bottom Line: In a world of moral craziness and fickle outcomes (at least in the short run) we should fear God greatly, enjoy to the fullest the days that He has given to us, and be assured that He is still working.

- **Today:** In what ways does your personal life feel like a “Woody Allen world?”
- **Monday:** What does it mean to live by sight? ...to live by faith?
- **Tuesday:** What does it mean for you personally to fear God greatly?
- **Wednesday:** What does it mean for you to live to the fullest the days God gives?
- **Thursday:** Have you worried that God is not working in some things in your life? What do you need to do about that? What is the evidence that He is still working?
- **Friday:** In what ways do you personally need to live more by faith?
- **Saturday:** Woody Allen’s metaphor for life is the “terrifying flicker.” What is yours? What are the Bible’s metaphors for life.

“Companionship Papers”

Dialogue questions for helping each other in the Christian walk this week.

GETTING STARTED:

- What is the greatest evidence to you that we live in a “Woody Allen world”—where outcomes are unpredictable and often unjust, chaotic, and even brutal?
- What are the primary American responses to life in a Woody Allen world?

LOOK AT THE TEXT:

- Verse 10: What is the futility in the death of a wicked person? How does God feel about the death of a wicked person?
- Verse 11: What does it mean to have a “heart given fully to evil?”
- Verses 12, 13: What is the difference between the short-term outcomes and the long-term outcomes in a given life—a righteous life or a wicked life either one?
- Verse 12: What does it mean to fear God and fear Him openly?
- Verse 14: Why are there “outcome reversals” in this world?
- Verse 15: What does Solomon mean by, “We should eat, drink, and be merry?”
- Verse 16: Exactly what is it that Solomon, and no person, can discover here?
- Verse 17: What are the implications of “every work of God” in this verse?

LIVE DIFFERENTLY—you can also use questions from the Walking Papers above:

- Is God convicting you of some way in which you need to “fear Him and fear Him openly?” What is it and what will you do?
- Is God showing you some way that you are walking by sight and not by faith? What is it and what will you do?
- Do you need to make changes to better enjoy the days that God gives you?