

**Ecclesiastes VIII**  
***Understanding the***  
***Ways of the Holy***  
**Ecclesiastes 8:15-17**

- I. THE COMMENDMENT OF MIRTH (Ecclesiastes 8:15)
  - a. No Better Thing Under the Sun (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13)
    - i. But to enjoy the pleasures of life
    - ii. But to enjoy the things of life
  - b. God Gives to Man to Enjoy (Ecclesiastes 5:18-19)
- II. THE STRIVING TO UNDERSTAND (Ecclesiastes 8:16-17)
  - a. Of Things on Earth (Ecclesiastes 8:16)
    - i. Solomon had applied his heart to search out the reason for everything (Ecclesiastes 7:25; 8:9)
      - 1. From wisdom (Ecclesiastes 2:12)
      - 2. To folly (Ecclesiastes 2:12)
    - ii. Solomon apparently lost sleep over his investigation [“there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes”] (Ecclesiastes 8:16b; Ecclesiastes 2:23)
    - iii. Solomon recorded the results of his perplexing inquiries into the affairs of men, and the purposes, providence, and works of God. And when he examined with great attention and diligence into the works of God, he found he could neither comprehend nor explain them; and was persuaded, that no application or capacity would enable a man to fathom the depth of God’s dealing in this world. How then can we understand or comprehend His working in our lives?!
    - iv. Four things of which the author of Proverbs 30 could not know (Proverbs 30:18-19)
      - 1. The way of an eagle in the air
      - 2. The way of a serpent upon a rock
      - 3. The way of a ship in the sea
      - 4. And the way of a man with a maid

- b. Of the Things of God (Ecclesiastes 8:17)
  - i. Man Knoweth Them Not (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
    - 1. The works of God are exceeding deep (Ecclesiastes 7:23, 24)
    - 2. Man's Knowledge of how God makes things work and grow is limited (Psalm 104:24)
      - a. It cannot reckoned up on order (Psalm 40:5)
      - b. It is unsearchable (Job 5:9; Romans 11:33)
      - c. We cannot understand the way of the spirit or how God gives life (Ecclesiastes 11:5)
  - ii. God's works are manifold (Psalm 104:24)
  - iii. Note: Heaven is a place for understanding; the earth is a place for trust.