

Two lives, one natural subject to Satan, one spiritual blessed by God

Life where the will is under human nature and influenced by the devil

Life where the will is under and controlled by Christ and as God's child, by Christ, reigns over the devil.

Eccl 9:11 I saw under the sun
(Ro 8:6 To be naturally minded or sense and reason without God)

Rom 6:14 But you are...under grace (= under Christ)
1 Tim 1:14 The grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ.

That the race is not to the swift,

1 Co 9:24 ...So run your race to win. TLB
Acts 20:24...So that I may finish my race...finish the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

Nor the battle to the strong,

1 Sam 17:47 ...The battle is the LORD's,
2 Cor 2:14 Thanks be to God, Who always causes us to triumph (as we live) in Christ... KJV

Nor bread to the wise,

Psa 37:25 I have not seen the righteous forsaken nor their children begging bread.
Phil 4:19 My God will meet all your need according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Nor riches to the understanding

Prov 3:13-16 Happy is the one who finds wisdom, And who gains understanding...In her left hand are riches and honor. Col 2:3 In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Nor favor to people of skill;

Ps 5:12 You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You surround them as with a shield.
Prov 3:3-4 Do not forsake mercy and truth...so you will find favor...in the sight of God and man

But time and chance (doing well or doing badly) **happen to them all**

Eccl 8:5 A wise person's heart discerns both time (God's timing) and judgment (God's will),

Eph 5:17-18 Do not be unwise, understand what the will of the Lord is...be filled with the Spirit,

The left hand column above describes the lives of many; for good and evil seem random

For those who live in their human nature, under the sun, why does Satan prosper some

and bring disaster on others, so that it seems as if it's just random and time and chance happen to them all? He does it to induce them either to be proud and take credit for it, or in self pity to blame God for it. Either way he then keeps most from a relationship with God.

1 John 3:8 **Whoever continues to sin (a self ruled will) belongs to the devil...** TEV

1 Jo 5:19 (So) **The whole world lies under the influence of the wicked one (Satan).**

For some: Ps 73:3-6 **I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked...They are not in trouble as others are...pride serves as their necklace...**

For others: John 10:10 **The thief (Satan) comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...**

Ezek 18:25 **Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair'. Hear now...is it not My way (righteousness) which is fair, and your ways (sin) which are not fair?**

Rom 9:20 **O person, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to Him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" (The cause:)**

2 Cor 4:4 **Whose thoughts the god of this world (Satan) has blinded, who do not believe (these truths), in order to keep the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God, from shining in them.**

Not just the world but many Christians live under the delusion that life is a matter of luck

The opening passage then continues that those who live under the sun, and not under Christ, are taken captive, by the devil, and many die unnecessarily before their time:

Ecc 9:12 **For people also do not know their time; Like fish taken in a cruel net; Like birds caught in a snare, So the children of men are snared in an evil time when it suddenly comes on them. (The gospel of God remedy:)**

2 Tim 2:26 **That they may come to their right mind (spiritual not natural) and escape the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him (due to sin) at his will.**

Rom 5:17 (But) **For...those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness they will reign in life in and by the One, Jesus Christ.**

Ps 91:9-11 **Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place (living in the Spirit, not your human nature) No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He will give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.**