

Ecclesiastes 8

LESSON 09

Living with Injustice

1. Ecclesiastes 8

- a. Young people get hit with life's vanity like a brick (Ecclesiastes can help)
- b. Wisdom brings you to know the depravity of man - Rom 3:12, 21
- c. Ch. 7 – Wisdom is good (7:11-12); but there are things that impede its profit
 - i. Poverty (7:11); people (7:20); women (7:26); now kings, time, and judgment
- d. There is a turning point toward God's place in this vanity under the sun (8:15-9:1)

2. Ecclesiastes 8:1-8

- a. 1 – It is good to be wise. Knowledge puffs up. He fears God (Prov 1:1-7). Gets bold.
- b. 2 – *"I counsel thee"*, thee who? *"Keep the... commandments"* – we are under law
- c. 3 – Wiersbe says men have four options: disobey, desert, defy, or discern.
- d. 4 – *"there is power"* – God ordained (Ro 13:1-2), but also literal king (not congress)
- e. 5 – *"time and judgment"* – Rom 13:3-4; time needs discerning! Don't get it wrong.
- f. 6 – *"every purpose there is..."* – Ecc 3:1, remember, Ecc 3:17, 11:9
- g. 7 – The problem: 1 Pet 1:11 – what shall be and when?
- h. 8 – Christ had power, Luke 23:46, but no other man. Life is war w/o discharge.

3. Ecclesiastes 8:9-15

- a. 9 – Rulers that hurt themselves – ignorance, cruelty, unrighteous, burdensome
- b. 10 – Wicked religious men who die without justice → vanity. Luke 18
- c. 11 – Speedy trial was one of the Bill of Rights that is now eroding
- d. 12 – *"Surely I know..."* – He knows what the law taught: fear God, obey = it is well.
- e. 13 – Our lives are shadows and the wicked will be cut short – Ps 73:12,17-18
- f. 14- Justice is not found under the sun – we must look beyond
- g. 15 – The first time "merry" is mentioned – but it is all that abides here. 1 Cor 15:32

4. Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:1

- a. 16 –When he applied his heart to wisdom, it led to behold the work of God
- b. Ecclesiastes explores how deep the rabbit hole goes. The end is found in God, not yourself. Stop trying to find yourself, and find God (hint: He is found in Christ)
- c. 8:17 – *"unsearchable riches"* – Eph 3:8; peace past understanding - Phil 4:7; ways past finding out – Rom 11:33; who knows the mind of the Lord? Rom 11:34
- d. The righteous, wise, and their works are in the hand of God – Ecc 9:1