

Ecclesiastes 8-9

Dealing with Life's Unfairness

Ecclesiastes: An Overview

- The Problem (1:1-11)
- The Quest (1:12- 3:13)
- Objections (3:14- 7:29)
- Practical Advice (8:1- 11:10)
- Conclusion (12:1-14)

John Currid

Ecclesiastes 8:1-3

- Who is like the wise man and who knows the interpretation of a matter? A man's wisdom illumines him and causes his stern face to beam.
- I say, "Keep the king's commandment for the sake of your oath to God."
- "Do not be in a hurry to leave him. Do not join in an evil matter, for he will do whatever he pleases."

Ecclesiastes 8:4-5

- Since the word of the king is authoritative, who will say to him, "What are you doing?"
- He who keeps a royal command experiences no trouble, for a wise heart knows the proper time and procedure.

MADD
(Mothers Against Drunk Driving)



Deuteronomy 13

10 "So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

11 "Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you.

Deuteronomy 17

12 The man who acts presumptuously [arrogantly] by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve the LORD your God, nor to the judge, that man shall die; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

13 Then all the people will hear and be afraid, and will not act presumptuously again.



Psalm 73 (Asaph wrote)

3 For I was envious of the arrogant
As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

16 When I pondered to understand
this, It was troublesome in my sight

21 Thus my heart was grieved, And I
was vexed in my mind.

22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I
was like a beast before You.

Psalm 73 (Asaph wrote)

17 Until I came into the sanctuary of
God; Then I perceived their end.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail, But
God is the strength of my heart and my
portion forever.

27 For, behold, those who are far from
You will perish; You have destroyed all
those who are unfaithful to You.

Six Refrains that Focus on God's Grace

Eat, drink, & enjoy your daily life as a
gift from God.

1. 2:24-26
2. 3:12-13
3. 3:22
4. 5:18-19
5. 8:15
6. 9:7-9



Lessons (See Handout)

- Wisdom improves our outlook on life (8:1).
- Wisdom leads us to make good use of laws and authorities (8:2-9).
- God will make things right—if not in this world, then in the next (8:10-14).
- We are in God's hands (9:1)—the best place to be!

Lessons (See Handout)

- While there's life, there's hope (9:2-6).
- Don't expect life to be fair (9:11-12).
- Not even wisdom solves everything (9:13-18)—but God does!
- Enjoy your life as God's gift and trust Him (8:15; 9:7-9).