



Ecclesiastes: *The Vanity of Life Under the Sun*

Ecclesiastes 8:1-9

Introduction

1. The Virtue of Wisdom (1)
2. Wisdom for living under authority here under the sun (2-9)
 - Keep the kings command
 - Don't abandon the king too quickly
 - Don't get caught up in a wicked rebellion
 - There's a right way to appeal to your authority
 - Four things that even wisdom can't do
3. Our King of Kings above the sun

The virtue of wisdom

❖ **Ecclesiastes 8:1**

1. It will help you understand/interpret the backwards world we live in
2. It will brighten your face.

Wisdom for living under authority while under the sun

1. Keep the kings command

❖ **Ecclesiastes 8:2**

- ❖ Titus 3:1—*Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,*
- ❖ 1 Peter 2:13-15—*Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God,*
- ❖ Hebrews 13:17—*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*
- ❖ Romans 13:1-2—*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

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❖ John 19:11—*You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above*

2. Don't abandon the king too quickly

❖ **Ecclesiastes 8:3a**

3. Don't get caught up in a wicked rebellion

❖ **Ecclesiastes 8:3b-4**

❖ Matthew 22:17—*Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?*

❖ Matthew 22:18-21—*"Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

4. There's a right way to appeal to your authority

❖ **Ecclesiastes 8:5-7**

5. Four things that even wisdom cannot do

❖ **Ecclesiastes 8:8**

(1) You cannot contain the Spirit of a man

(2) You cannot control the day of death

(3) You cannot avoid all war

(4) Wickedness does not deliver those who are given to it

❖ John 6:44—*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*

❖ Romans 8:7—*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot*

❖ 2 Timothy 2:25-26—*God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*

❖ **Ecclesiastes 8:9**

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- ❖ Romans 6:5—*if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.*
- ❖ Psalm 119:160—*The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.*
- ❖ **Psalm 119:97-103**