



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 04/08/2018
DISCUSSION DATE: 04/22/2018
TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 8:1-17

I. FINISHING WELL (A GOOD NAME) REQUIRES SUBMISSION.

A. Submission begins in our relationship with Human authorities, v.v. 1-9.

1. Submission is characterized by loyalty to God-given authorities.
2. Submission provides protection from lasting harm.

B. Submission Trusts God's administration of Justice , v.v. 10-14.

C. Submission rejoices in God's gift of life, v. v. 15

D. Submission rests in God's Sovereignty, v.v. 16-17.

ASK GOD FOR WISDOM TO APPLY HIS WORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES.



The 2nd Section of Ecclesiastes began in 6:10 and will conclude in 11:6. We can summarize the purpose of this section as follows: ***Encouraging Us to Live a God-honoring Life in Spite of Our Inability to Understand God's Sovereign Reign Over His Fallen Creation, 6:10-11:6.***

1. **Read Ecclesiastes 6:12, 7:1, 14-15, 25-29.** How do these key verses connect/develop this purpose?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 8:1-4 & James 3:13, 17.** How and why does wisdom impact our appearance? Who do we want people to see in actions and attitudes?
3. **Read Colossians 3:20, 22; Hebrews 13:17; Phil 2:12; 1 John 5:2.** Why is obedience to human authority so important to God?
4. Why is submission to human authorities hard for us? How easy is it to find a group in opposition to those leading us (local and national government – in the work place – at church – even in our families)?
5. What is the limitation on all human authorities? i.e. When is it okay not to be in submission to them?
6. **Read Ecclesiastes 5:5-9.** How do we develop a wise heart so that we might know the proper time and procedure for every matter – (i.e. discern God's will)?
7. What two things are impossible for us to know? What two experiences can we be absolutely certain will take place? How should these two realities impact our daily lives?
8. **Read Ecclesiastes 8:10-14.** Why are wicked men often praised by society? Why do wicked men so often participate in religious worship services?
9. What happens to a society when wickedness is celebrated instead of punished? How do we see this taking place in our culture?
10. What does God want us to know before we are influenced by a culture that celebrates evil? How can these truths liberate our hearts and give us peace in the midst of apparent injustices?
11. **Read Ecclesiastes 8:15.** Why does the enjoyment of God's gift of life require a submissive heart? What do we know about the days of our life?
12. **Read Ecclesiastes 8:16-17.** What do we busy ourselves trying to understand? Why is such knowledge beyond us? Why do we struggle to accept this answer? What answers do we give ourselves that bolster our elevated opinions of ourselves?

13. How does a wise heart respond to the frustrating puzzlement of God's Sovereignty over His fallen creation?