

Ecclesiastes

FINISHING WELL
REQUIRES SUBMISSION

PASTOR BILLY M. GOTCHER

CHAPTER 8:1-17

APRIL 8, 2018

- **Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NKJV)** “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all *is* vanity.”
- **Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NET)** “Futile! Futile!” laments the Teacher, “Absolutely futile! Everything is futile!”
- **Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NIV)** “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

- **Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NKJV)** “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all *is* vanity.”
- Dr. McCabe: “Most frustratingly enigmatic (puzzling)!” says Qohelet (the Teacher). “Most frustratingly enigmatic (puzzling)! Everything is frustratingly enigmatic (puzzling).”

➤ Ecclesiastes 6:12

For *who knows what is good for man in life*, all the days of his vain (frustrating and puzzling) life which he passes like a shadow? *Who can tell a man what will happen after him* under the sun?

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:1

A good name is better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth;

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:14-15

In the **day of prosperity** be joyful, But in the **day of adversity** consider: Surely **God has appointed the one as well as the other**, So that man can find out nothing *that will come* after him.

¹⁵ **I have seen** everything in my days of vanity (frustrating puzzlement): There is **a just *man* who perishes in his righteousness**, And there is a **wicked *man* who prolongs *life* in his wickedness**.

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:25–29

I applied my heart to know, To search and seek out wisdom and the reason *of things*, to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness.

²⁶ And I find more bitter than death the woman whose heart *is* snares and nets, whose hands *are* fetters. He who pleases God shall escape from her, but the sinner shall be trapped by her.

A. Submission Begins In Our Relationship With Human Authorities.

1. Submission is characterized by loyalty to God-given authorities

- Ecclesiastes 8:1 *Who is like a wise man?* And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, And the sternness of his face is changed.
- McCabe: Who is like the wise man? And who knows the interpretation of a matter? A man's wisdom **brightens his face and changes his hard appearance.**

➤ **Ecclesiastes 8:2-3**

I say, “**Keep the king’s commandment for the sake of your oath to God.**”³ Do not be hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand for an evil thing, for he does whatever pleases him.”

➤ **Colossians 3:20**

Children, **obey** your **parents** in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

➤ **Colossians 3:22**

Bondservants, **obey** in all things your **masters** according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

➤ Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who **rule over you**, and **be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

➤ **Philippians 2:12**

Therefore, my **beloved**, **as you have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

➤ **1 John 5:2**

By this **we know** that we love the children of God, when **we love God and keep His commandments.**

What has our King commanded us to do?

➤ **Matthew 28:18–19**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

➤ **Ecclesiastes 8:4**

Where the word of a king *is, there is* power; And who may say to him, “What are you doing?”

2. Submission provides protection from lasting harm.

➤ Ecclesiastes 8:5–6

He who **keeps his command** will experience **nothing harmful**; And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment,

⁶ Because **for every matter there is a time and judgment**, Though the misery of man increases greatly.

➤ Ecclesiastes 8:7-8

For he does not know what will happen; So who can tell him when it will occur?

⁸ No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, And no one has power in the day of death. *There is no release from that war,* And **wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it.**

➤ Ecclesiastes 8:9

All this I have seen, and applied my heart to every work that is done under the sun: ***There is a time in which one man rules over another to his own hurt.***

**B. Submission Trusts God's Administration of
Justice (v.v. 10-14)**

➤ Ecclesiastes 8:10–11

¹⁰ Then I saw **the wicked** buried, who had come and gone from the place of holiness, and **they were forgotten** in the city where they had so done. This also *is* vanity.

¹¹ Because **the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily**, therefore **the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil**.

➤ Ecclesiastes 8:12–13

¹² Though a sinner does evil a hundred *times*, and his *days* are prolonged, yet **I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him.**

¹³ But **it will not be well with the wicked**; nor will he prolong *his days, which are as a shadow*, because he does not fear before God.

➤ McCabe's Translation:

Ecclesiastes 8:12–13

¹² Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, **I know that it will go well with those who fear God**, for they stand in fear before God.

¹³ **But it will not go well for the wicked**, neither will they lengthen their days as a shadow, for they do not stand in fear before God.

➤ **Ecclesiastes 8:14**

There is a frustrating enigma done upon the earth: there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the conduct of wicked men. I say this too is frustratingly enigmatic.

C. Submission Rejoices In God's Gift Of Life (v. 15)

- **Ecclesiastes 8:15** So I commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this will remain with him in his labor *all* the days of his life which God gives him under the sun.
- **McCabe:** So I commend **the enjoyment of life**, for there is nothing better for man under the sun than to eat, drink, and be glad, for this will accompany him in his toil during the days of his **life that God has given him** under the sun.

➤ **Philippians 4:11**

Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.**

➤ **1 Timothy 6:6**

Now **godliness with contentment is great gain.**

➤ **1 Timothy 6:8**

And having food and clothing, with these we shall **be content.**

➤ Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct *be* without covetousness; ***be content with such things as you have.*** For He Himself has said, ***“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”***

D. Submission rests in Gods Sovereignty (v.v. 16-17)

➤ Ecclesiastes 8:16–17

¹⁶ When I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth, even though one sees no sleep day or night,

¹⁷ then **I saw all the work of God**, that a man **cannot find out** the work that is done under the sun. For though a man labors to discover *it*, yet **he will not find *it***; moreover, though a wise *man* attempts to know *it*, **he will not be able to find *it***.