



Living Under the Thumb

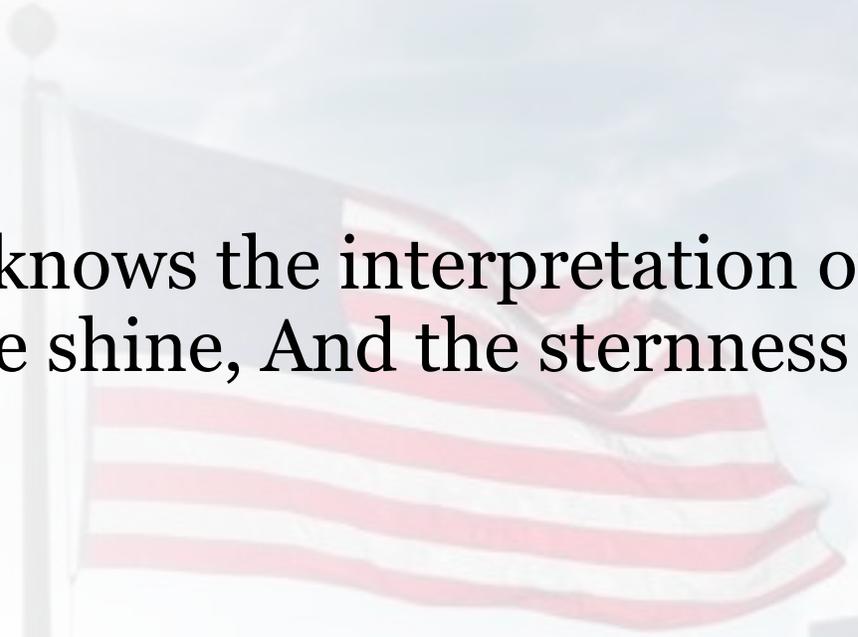
Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

Message of Ecclesiastes

- Main Focus – the vanity of material, earthly things
 - 1:1-2 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ² “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”
- Main Point – importance of serving God throughout life
 - 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all.

The quality of a wise person

- 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.
 - Has ability to interpret things
 - Causes his face to shine



Wisdom before the king

- 8:2-4 “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.” ⁴ Where the word of a king is, *there is power*; And who may say to him, “What are you doing?”
 - Submission to king is based in oath to God
 - Show proper respect and loyalty
 - When you obey you don’t get into trouble

Wisdom of proper timing

- 8:5-6 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.
 - Wisdom knows the proper time and procedure
 - Even in misery there is a proper time and way to respond

Wisdom in things beyond our control

- 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.*
 - Cannot know the future
 - Four things we can't control
 - Wind
 - Day of death
 - Discharge in time of war
 - Wicked deeds cannot deliver evil doers

Wisdom to trust God

- 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.*
 - Solomon studied men exercising authority over others for evil
 - There is a time for this but time is under God
 - Part of man's fallen condition (7:29)
- 8:10 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.*

Wisdom to trust God

- 8:11 The slowness of justice removes restraint
- 8:12-13 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.
 - Solomon held this as a conviction.. Justice will come
- 8:14-15 There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just *men* to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked *men* to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also *is* vanity.

Enjoyment of life recommended

- 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.
 - Don't destroy your joy in life by trying to second guess God
- 8:16-17 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*.



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