



Ecclesiastes

8.1–9.1

Week 3

Authority of Man (8.1-9)



1. Man under God's Authority (1)
2. Man under Man's Authority (2-5)
3. Man under Sin's Authority (6-9)

Motive of Man (Eccl 8.10-13)



1. Wickedness ends (10)
2. Wickedness spreads (11)
3. Wicked or well? (12-13)

Message to Man (Eccl 8.14–9.1)



1. Correcting karma (8.14)
2. Enjoy the ride (8.15)
3. Ask “How?,” not “Why?” (8.16–9.1)

Discussion Questions



- How have you seen wisdom (primarily through the fear of the Lord) brighten your or another's face whereby you can see the changes in his/her appearance? (Ecclesiastes 8:1)
- To what authorities do you submit: government, church, work, family, etc.? What is a step of obedience that you don't want to take—but will in faith—to submit to the authorities God has placed over you? (Ecclesiastes 8:2-6)
- Describe a time in your life when you wish you had been disciplined for your wrongdoing because it could have kept you from further sinful behavior and suffering? (Ecclesiastes 8:11) How does such a perspective inform your parenting with disobedient children, dictate how you engage with co-workers who are in the wrong, or change how you communicate with friends and community who are unrepentant? (Ecclesiastes 8:12-13)
- When was a time in your life when you received the suffering/affliction/trials that the wicked deserve? Conversely, when have you received blessing/prosperity/grace/generosity even though you acted wickedly? What lies did you believe during those times? What is a right "theology" of suffering and blessing? (Ecclesiastes 8:10, 8:14–9:1)
- What evil causes are people standing up for in our culture and country? What is our role and response as a Christian, taking into account submission to authority without compromising our ultimate authority to the Lord? (Ecclesiastes 8:3) What fears do you have about taking a stand even if it's against the "king" of the land?

To Note



- Parking
- Name Tags and Room Numbers
- Open Group
- Workbooks