

## WHO SAID LIFE WAS FAIR?

(Ecclesiastes 8)

...Tommy Nelson tells the story of having vertigo while flying in a little airplane engulfed by clouds..."don't the clouds make it hard for you to see where you are going?" "Oh yes...so I keep my eyes on the gauges...never lie."  
...This is how life is sometimes. We find ourselves suffering and don't know which way is up. We are clueless as to what God is doing in our lives, all the while we see others prospering. Life seems so unfair!!!!  
...Solomon teaches us how to survive by telling that wisdom endures even when it does not understand. For life is not fair and God almost never gives us the answers.

### TWO INSIGHTS GAINED FROM WISDOM HELPING US NAVIGATE THROUGH THE UNFAIRNESS OF LIFE.

...Such insights will help us to keep our eyes on the "gauges...for they never lie."

#### I. **Wisdom Understands That God Gave Human Government For The Administration Of Justice. (vv 1-9)** Government is a means for correcting wrongs, but it is not perfect.

- A. Wisdom is a great gift from God. (v.1) Wisdom gives us understanding of the great issues of life. No greater privilege than to know where we came from, who we are, where we are going, how sin is removed and what is the will of God. We know these things from God's Word!
- B. Since human government is God's instrument, we are to be marked by obedience to our govt leaders. (vv2-5) Paul restates this in Romans 13:1-5. "obey." Solomon gives us reasons for this:
  1. Government rulers have the authority to enforce the law. (3-4a) "force"
  2. There is safety in obedience to authority. (5) "no harm"
- C. Even if the government acts in an evil fashion, we are to obey, as long as its laws do not violate God's wonderful Word. (6) It is during these times that we may endure great "misery."
  1. It takes patience and trust in God to submit to frail human authorities.
  2. If you are wise, your life will be marked by submission and obedience. This will help provide you with "a proper time and procedure for dealing with life's problems."  
...a wise person knows that God can change things in an instant.(ex: Belshazzar...Dan 5)  
Here's the lesson: God can take out a ruler anytime He chooses.
- D. Life is unknowable in advance, but all know that death is certain. Solomon tells us that in this unfair world, the wicked do not have the ability to control their own destinies. (death) (vv7-9) ...King Ahab illustrates this so well. He was the second most evil king in Israel...he thought he could outsmart God. Impossible. God took out this wicked ruler in His time and way.
- E. Even with government in place, life is unfair because evil is not always punished. (vv10-11)

#### II. **Wisdom Understands That God's Providence Rules Over All. (vv12-17)**

...This greatly helps us when life treats us so unfairly. Jesus will have the final word on all wrongs. Remember, Jesus is the one who suffered the greatest injustice of all.

- A. Solomon encourages us in view of God's governance, the final ending will be better for those who "fear God," when compared to the wicked who don't. (vv.12-14)
  1. The "wicked man" seems to get away with it...(v.12) "a hundred crimes..."  
...Even worse, it appears that sinful people get the reward of the righteous...(v.14)
  2. God is watching and will have the final say. He will deal with all the wrongs.
- B. So, we are told in view of all this, to enjoy life. Don't let the unfairness of life destroy the contentment God's wants you to have. Enjoy the gifts given to you by a loving, all wise God. How do we do this?
  1. Do the right thing. Change what you can change. Trust God in what you can't change.
  2. Don't let what you cannot control tomorrow ruin today.
  3. Relax, enjoy the fruits of your labor, "eat and drink and be glad..."
  4. One man wrote, "obey what you know to obey, enjoy what you can enjoy and, for the rest, wait on the timing and purposes of God."
- C. Solomon ends by reminding us that human wisdom, though great, has its limitations. (vv16-17)  
...You cannot figure out the inequalities of life. Who ever said life was fair???

### LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: