

May 1, 2022 | Pastor Keith Krell  
Ecclesiastes 8:1-17 | “Living Under the Thumb”

### **Sermon Application Review from Ecclesiastes 7:15-29**

How did you actively choose to trust God’s wisdom this past week (7:15-18)?  
How did you discipline yourself to not gossip or speak against others (7:21-22)?  
How did you pursue the greater pleasure of Christ instead of your sin (7:26)?

### **Scripture References**

Ecclesiastes 8:1–17  
Proverbs 14:35; 16:14; 20:2  
1 Timothy 2:1–6  
James 5:1–7  
Isaiah 55:6–9  
Job 38  
Romans 9:19–21

### **Study Questions**

1. Whose face comes to mind when you think of being radiant with the joy of the Lord (8:1)? Do you exhibit the joy of the Lord? Why or why not? Have you used your upbringing or personality to make excuses for your lack of joy?
2. Have you ever had a situation where you were under someone’s authority with whom you absolutely disagreed? How did you handle it? How should you obey authority when you disagree or when it might inconvenience you? How can you remind yourself that all authority is instituted by God Himself? Read Romans 13:1–7; Titus 3:1; and 1 Peter 2:13–15. When is disobedience to government appropriate (8:5–6)? Read Daniel 3; Acts 4:1–29; and 5:29. How have you sought to balance these responses?
3. What does it mean to “fear God” (8:12–13)? How can you know whether you fear Him? Is it possible to fear God and still eat, drink, and be merry (8:15)? How is it possible to balance these two perspectives?
4. What mysteries have you encountered that defy human understanding (8:16–17)? Have you experienced or observed the mystery of unjust triumph? Have you been confronted with the mystery of unfair consequences? Have you dealt with the mystery of untimely pleasure? What are some valuable lessons you have learned through these circumstances? Amid these issues, how have you guarded yourself against wrong responses?
5. What would enable you to trust God despite your circumstances? What keeps you from trusting Him? How can you grow in your faith and trust? Do you believe God is in control of everything that happens to you? Would this include both good and bad experiences? Can anything happen to you that is not somehow part of God’s plan?

### **Recommended Reading**

Jonathan Leeman, *How the Nations Rage: Rethinking Faith and Politics in a Divided Age* (Thomas Nelson, 2018)  
Thaddeus Williams, *Confronting Injustice without Compromising Truth: 12 Questions Christians Should Ask About Social Justice* (Zondervan Academic, 2020)  
Ken Boa, *God, I Don’t Understand: Answers to Difficult Questions of Faith* (David C Cook, [1977] 2007)