

REALITY CHECK

WEEK 9

OCT 2
2022

Discovering life's meaning
in the book of Ecclesiastes

The Limitations of Wisdom

**“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.
Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”**

~ Jesus Matthew 10:16

Ecclesiastes 8:1-9 *Fools in Charge*

Who is like the wise? Who knows the explanation of things?
A person's wisdom brightens their face and changes its hard appearance.

Obey the king's command, I say, because you took an oath before God. Do not be in a hurry to leave the king's presence. Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do whatever he pleases. Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him, “What are you doing?” Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure...

...All this I saw, as I applied my mind to everything done under the sun. There is a time when a man lords it over others to his own hurt.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. **Romans 13:5**

Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God's eyes:
to listen to you, or to him? **Acts 4:19**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 6:12**

Ecclesiastes 8:11-14 *Better Somehow*

When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong. Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, **I know** that it will go better with those who fear God, who are reverent before him. Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow. There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.

Jerusalem staggers, Judah is falling; their words and deeds are against the Lord, defying his glorious presence... Woe to them! They have brought disaster upon themselves. Tell the righteous it will be well with them, for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds. Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upon them! They will be paid back for what their hands have done.

Isaiah 3:8-11

Ecclesiastes 8:15-17 *Enjoyment Over Frustration*

So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun. When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe the labor that is done on earth— people getting no sleep day or night— then I saw all that God has done.

No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it.

In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into **the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. **This mystery** is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.**

Ephesians 3:4-6