



## “THE ISSUE OF AUTHORITY”

### Ecclesiastes 8:2-9

#### INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

#### AUTHORITY’S DEMANDS ARE TO BE OBEYED – vv. 2-4

Solomon gives us two basic reasons for this:

1. Because of our SUBMISSION to God – v. 2

***“Keep the king’s command, because of God’s oath to him.”***

Why should we submit to authority? Because of our commitment to God!  
(Rom. 13:1-7. Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-17)

2. Because of the SOVEREIGNTY of the king – vv. 3-4

***“for he does whatever he pleases.”*** (Ps. 115:3; 135:5-6)

Sovereignty means that we:

- Respect his presence as well as his position – v. 3 - 1 Pet. 2:17
  
- Refuse to do evil – v. 3b

We are rebellious in our hearts, but God’s says holiness is demanded.  
(Isa. 6:1-8)

- Realize his authority – v. 4 (Job 9:12; Isa. 45:9; Dan. 4:35)

#### AUTHORITY’S DECISIONS ARE TO BE EVALUATED – vv. 5-8

(Acts 4:18-19; 5:22-42)

Authorities must be obeyed but decisions are to be evaluated.

1. Because our **LIVES** are affected by their decisions – vv. 5a-6

- In terms of **Protection** – v. 5 (*Prov. 20:12; Rom. 13:3*)
- In terms of God's **Purpose** and plan – v. 6
- In terms of our **Problems** – v. 6

2. Because the **LIMITATIONS** of authority are evident – vv. 7-8

There are certain things authority cannot do:

- It (authority) cannot **Comprehend** what is to come – v. 7  
(*Matt. 24:42-43*)
- It cannot **Contain** the spirit – v. 8
- It cannot **Control** the day of death
- It cannot **Conquer** the bondage of sin

**AUTHORITY'S DANGERS ARE TO BE UNDERSTOOD** – v. 9

Solomon's ultimate conclusion is to remember our accountability to God.  
Have I submitted everything to Him? Have I bowed my knee to the Lord?