

Ecclesiastes 8:4-10

Last time on "It's a Good Life," we looked in the book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 8, and we studied down through verse 4, and that's where we want to start today, is verses 4-5 in Ecclesiastes Chapter 8.

But let me say that once again it's a privilege to be able to speak to you, whether you're in your car, in your home, wherever you're at, and I count it a privilege to be able to share with you the Word of God. Also, today, if it's possible for you to have your Bible, open your Bible with me if you would and follow along as we study the Word of God together.

Ecclesiastes 8:4-5 says, *⁴Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? ⁵Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.* Well, it seems to say here that the king has power. Respect his power, according to these verses. We're to respect his power. Do what is right. Obey the law and you will know you have done right. In other words, you're not going to feel evil. You're not going to be punished for doing something that is wrong. You're going to be doing what you're supposed to be doing.

Notice Hebrews 4:12 in connection with this. It says, *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* As we look to man's authority, we also need to look to God's authority, and we find God's authority all through His Word. And we find that the Word of God is able to penetrate our hearts. The Word of God is able to discern. It says in that

verse, in Hebrews 4:12, that it's quick. It's alive. The Word of God is alive and it's powerful. It's sharper than any sword because it can pierce... go into the soul and spirit. It goes to the innermost being, and it's a discerner of the thoughts and intents of our hearts.

Today, if you've never trusted Christ as your Savior, you need to ask Him to come into your heart today. God knows you. God knows me. He knows all about us. He is the Creator. He is the One who gives us the breath of life today, and I thank God that He is able to give you and me and all of those who would call upon Him today, eternal life, and that eternal life comes through Jesus Christ, the Lord, God's Son.

Notice Ecclesiastes 8:6-7: *⁷Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him. ⁸For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?* In other words, judgment will come in its own time, but nobody knows... no person knows when. I'm reminded that some people say, "Well, you Christians, you've said that Jesus is coming back. Well, where is the promise of His coming? Where is He? I haven't seen Him." Well, the Bible says that He's longsuffering. He's longsuffering toward us and He's not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

You should thank God today. If you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you need to thank God that He hasn't come back. You need to thank God that you're still able to hear what I'm saying and what the Word of God is saying, that today is the day of salvation. Now is the accepted time. In other words, you need to get saved now. There is no other day promised to you. Today is the day of salvation. And I would

say to you as a Christian, you need to be living and working for God today. You don't have the promise of tomorrow on this Earth.

All of us will die one day, and it's only what we do now that's going to last throughout eternity. In other words, what we do for the Lord, we're sending that on ahead. It's like a bank account. It doesn't mean that we're going to get points with God. It simply means that, "Lord, I thank You for saving my soul, and I want to serve You while I can. I want to make every day count so that I can tell others about You so that they, too, can be saved and one day I'll see them in Heaven. I'll be with them and You one day, Lord, and I thank You for that privilege."

That's the way it should be. Judgment is coming one day and we stop to think that it's going to be a terrible time for those who have never trusted Jesus as Savior, and that's on my heart today. And I pray that you know Him as your Savior because there's coming a time, the Bible says, that every knee is going to bow and every tongue is going to confess that He is God. When that time comes, if you've never trusted Him as your Savior. It's going to be too late for you when that time comes when it says every knee's going to bow. And I pray that you won't hear the words, "Depart from me, ye accursed, into everlasting darkness." You need to trust Christ today as your Savior.

Notice with me verse 8 now of Ecclesiastes Chapter 8. It says, *There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit...* In other words, the spirit of the body will depart. That's talking about death... *neither hath he power in the day of death...* There's the word "death" now. All die. We can't stop it from happening. In Hebrews 9:27, it talks about this and it goes on to say here in verse 8 of Ecclesiastes... *and there is no discharge in that war...* In other words, once you're dead, you're dead. It's too late to do anything because this

life is over with then. And then we continue to read in verse 8. It says... *neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.*

Some people have this attitude that, "Well, if I die and I don't go to Heaven and I go to Hell, there's going to be a lot of my friends there and we're just going to party all the time." I hate to tell you this... no, I don't hate to tell you because the Word of God tells me to tell you that you're not going to be partying. If you die without Jesus Christ, you're not going to be delivered from Hell. You're going to be there throughout all eternity, and that's what Solomon is trying to get across here through the Word of God. It says, *neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.*

Some people, it seems, they want to see how wicked they can be. How much fun... They call it fun... how much fun they can have. Well, I've got news for you. That's not going to help you when it comes time for death. That's what it says here in the first part of these verses and in verse 8 here. It says, once you're dead, you're dead. It's too late. You can't do anything else. Everyone dies. The spirit of the body will depart. All die. We can't stop it from happening. Hebrews 9:27 says, *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.* Once you're dead, you're dead. You can't do anything about going to Heaven at that point.

Wickedness... as we continue to look in verse 8 here it talks about wickedness. There's no power over death. And though the life of the wicked may be prolonged, according to Ecclesiastes 7:15, we also need to understand that wickedness itself has no inherent power to prolong life. In Ecclesiastes 7:15, it says, *All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness.* We

talked about this. And sometimes we look around and we say why do good things happen to these bad people. We think they're bad. God knows whether they're bad or not, but then we turn around and we say that person was good over here. That person knew Christ as Savior. That person has troubles. That person may have even died, and we don't understand. But you see, everybody dies. There is not a person on this Earth that's not going to die except for that person who knows Jesus Christ as Savior. If that trumpet sounds, the Bible says that the trumpet shall sound; the dead in Christ shall rise first, and then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with Him in the clouds to be forever with the Lord. We know that as the Rapture. We know that as people who are alive and who know Jesus Christ at the time when He comes back in the clouds, that's the Rapture. Those people are going to go with Him. But the Bible says there comes a time when this body has to be changed, and that's known as death. Death will take place.

Notice here with me if you would in verses 9-13. In verses 9-13, we need to anticipate wicked rulers. Verse 9 says, *All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt.* "All this, both good and bad," according to verses 1-8, he says, "I have seen happen on the Earth and have studied it intently." And we see that the tyrannical ruler hurts himself and others. In other words, he's a dictator and we see this in Ecclesiastes 8 verse 8 and verse 6. In Proverbs 8:36, it says, *But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.*

Well, I think of Rehoboam, one of the kings, and he lost ten of the twelve tribes of Israel. In I Kings chapter 12, but "the time of hurt" chiefly refers to eternal ruin incurred by

wickedness at the day of death. And this is the time of judgment. People need to know Jesus Christ now as Savior, and we who are saved need to be living for Him right now.

Well, in verse 10, it says, *And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity.* Wicked rulers are soon forgotten. In other words, they leave nothing behind. It's vanity. It's all gone. They come and they go, and after they're dead, they're forgotten, and their wickedness got them vanity... nothing good.

And I wonder, are you getting something good today? Are you doing something good? The first good thing you need to do is ask Jesus to come into your heart. You need to trust Him and He'll save you. You need to ask Him to save you, and if you are saved, what you need to be doing that is good and you've already trusted Christ as your Savior, you need to be working for Him. You need to do what He wants you to do, living for Him.

Let's pray. Father, thank You today for the privilege of this time we've had together. And I pray for that person who needs Christ today as Savior. May You come into the heart. May they say, "Lord, come into my heart. I receive You as Savior." For that saved person, Lord, may You deal with their hearts. May each one of us serve You today, live for You, and help others know Christ as Lord and Savior. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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