

SERIES: Ecclesiastes
“God and Government”
Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

Religion and Politics?

- Government is established by **God**. (Rom. 13:1)
 - Governments are a gift of God to **restrain** evil.
 - Governments are a gift of God to **reward** good.
- Christians are commanded to **submit** to their government. (Rom. 13:1-2)
- Disobedience to the government is ultimately rebellion against God.
- The Exception: We do not obey the government when it causes us to **disobey** God.
- We need **wisdom** to know the difference.

Enduring the Governments of Men (8:1-9)

- Wisdom is a blessing that helps us live wisely under those in authority. (1)
- We submit to the government to **honor** God, even if some of those governments are corrupt. (2-3)
- If you respect the government official's power, you will be unharmed. (4-5)
- If you must resist the government, wisdom will show you the right **time** and the right **way**. (5-6)
- Man cannot control his own destiny and is powerless to avoid what he cannot predict. (7-8)
 - We are powerless over our spirit.
 - We are powerless over the war with **death**.
 - In the face of death, wickedness will not rescue the wicked.
- Not every government will do what is right, and may even harm its citizens. (9)
 - All men are **sinners**.
 - All governments are filled with **men**.
 - Therefore, all governments are **sinful**.

Those Who Fear God Will Do Well (8:10-13)

- Sometimes life doesn't seem fair. (10-11)
 - Evil leaders are often **celebrated**. (10)
 - Evil people are not sentenced quickly, which encourages more **crime**. (11)
- In the end, God will make all things right. (12-13)
 - It will go well for the one who **fears** God.
 - The one who does not fear God will be **forgotten**.

Life's Not Fair: Man Cannot Fully Understand God's Ways (8:14-17)

- What we don't know:
 - Why do **bad** things happen to righteous people?
 - Why do **good** things happen to wicked people?
- What we do know:
 - No amount of wisdom or work will answer all of life's mysteries.
 - God has given us good things to enjoy so that we would trust and love **him**.
 - Some things are not worth losing sleep over.
 - Jesus is King, his kingdom is forever, he is ruling well, and he will make every wrong **right**.
 - God is patient, so his vengeance comes **slowly**.
 - God is righteous, so his vengeance comes **surely**.
 - God is gracious, so his grace comes **freely**.

SERIES: Ecclesiastes
“God and Government”
Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

Religion and Politics?

- Government is established by _____. (Rom. 13:1)
 - Governments are a gift of God to _____ evil.
 - Governments are a gift of God to _____ good.
- Christians are commanded to _____ to their government. (Rom. 13:1-2)
- Disobedience to the government is ultimately rebellion against God.
- The Exception: We do not obey the government when it causes us to _____ God.
- We need _____ to know the difference.

Enduring the Governments of Men (8:1-9)

- Wisdom is a blessing that helps us live wisely under those in authority. (1)
- We submit to the government to _____ God, even if some of those governments are corrupt. (2-3)
- If you respect the government official's power, you will be unharmed. (4-5)
- If you must resist the government, wisdom will show you the right _____ and the right _____. (5-6)
- Man cannot control his own destiny and is powerless to avoid what he cannot predict. (7-8)
 - We are powerless over our spirit.
 - We are powerless over the war with _____.
 - In the face of death, wickedness will not rescue the wicked.
- Not every government will do what is right, and may even harm its citizens. (9)
 - All men are _____.
 - All governments are filled with _____.
 - Therefore, all governments are _____.

Those Who Fear God Will Do Well (8:10-13)

- Sometimes life doesn't seem fair. (10-11)
 - Evil leaders are often _____. (10)
 - Evil people are not sentenced quickly, which encourages more _____. (11)
- In the end, God will make all things right. (12-13)
 - It will go well for the one who _____ God.
 - The one who does not fear God will be _____.

Life's Not Fair: Man Cannot Fully Understand God's Ways (8:14-17)

- What we don't know:
 - Why do _____ things happen to righteous people?
 - Why do _____ things happen to wicked people?
- What we do know:
 - No amount of wisdom or work will answer all of life's mysteries.
 - God has given us good things to enjoy so that we would trust and love _____.
 - Some things are not worth losing sleep over.
 - Jesus is King, his kingdom is forever, he is ruling well, and he will make every wrong _____.
 - God is patient, so his vengeance comes _____.
 - God is righteous, so his vengeance comes _____.
 - God is gracious, so his grace comes _____.