

## Enjoying life in an unjust world

Ecclesiastes 8:1-15

- I. Wise people understand life, but still smile and give joy to others (Ecclesiastes 8:1).
  - God gives wisdom and joy as we please Him (2:26).
  
- II. The wise person submits to imperfect rulers and acts with discernment (Ecclesiastes 8:2-6).
  - A. Obey rulers for God's sake (8:2; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15).
  - B. Don't be hasty to resist rulers because they have God-given power to punish (8:3-4).
  - C. Citizens who obey are not punished; the wise act discerningly when government is wrong (8:5-6).
  
- III. The wise person accepts God's sovereignty in an unjust world (Ecclesiastes 8:7-14).
  - A. We do not know or control the future (8:7-8).
    - We can't control when we die ("wind" – 8:8a).
    - The wicked can't avoid justice ("soldiers"- 8:8b).
  - B. There will always be injustice (9-11).
    - Those who abuse their authority (9)
    - The wicked who are praised (10)
    - Crime unpunished that incites more crime (11)
  - C. In spite of injustices, it is better to fear God (12-14).
  
- IV. Even in an unjust world, the wise can enjoy life as a gift from God (Ecclesiastes 8:15).
  - A. Keep eating, drinking and being glad because God is in charge (15a).
  - B. Joy comes as we work every day God gives us (15b).