



# Ecclesiastes

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## Lesson 16 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 8: 1-17

### Pray

**Review** – There are many snares and temptations in this evil world, but the person with godly wisdom will have the power to overcome. Solomon has proved his point: Wisdom can make our lives better and clearer and stronger. We may not fully understand all that God is doing, but we will have enough wisdom to live for the good of others and the glory of God. In today's verses, King Solomon continues to investigate the value of wisdom. He comes face to face with the problem of evil in the world.

### Reflect

1. Read **verses 1-17**. In **verse 1**, who is Solomon searching for? What does wisdom do for this person?
2. Read **verses 2-6**. Solomon probably has in mind a despotic ruler here; and a man, perhaps in the royal court, who had to carry out his orders. The officer has wisdom. In verse 2, his admonition to this person is what? In Romans 13: 1-5, how do these verses parallel what Solomon is saying in these verses?
3. **According to verse 5**, what will come to those who obey and honor the king? Solomon tells us there is **both time and judgment for every matter**. A wise person then must learn to what?
4. Read **verses 10-14**. In **verse 11**, what does Solomon realize about the dead man?
5. According to **v12-13**, the Preacher concludes (though not necessarily sounding confident) what concerning the wicked and the righteous?
6. Solomon summarizes his concern in **verse 14**. What does he say?
7. Read **verses 15-17**. What does he again conclude about the meaning of life and labor? Remember, what did Solomon say in 3:11?

8. What does Solomon conclude for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in this book (**verse 15**)?

**Respond**

1. Instead of obeying and honoring a king or leader, we have the options of disobeying, running away, defying orders, and even fighting back. Have you ever done one of these things, or thought of doing them, before you exercise wisdom and seek to discern the right “time and procedure”? How did it go for you?
2. When you consider Solomon’s general conclusion about life and 1 Timothy 6: 17. How do you respond to life? Do you accept life as a gift of God and know that He gives us “all things richly to enjoy” ... or do you complain about what you don’t have?
3. Take some time in prayer now, to thank God for what you do have! And then go out and set your mind to enjoy life as a gift of God!