

# Life Under the Sun: The Message of Ecclesiastes

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

**Key Idea:** "The removal of a large proportion of the apparent inequalities in divine providence comes from righteous government."

--Walter Kaiser, *Ecclesiastes: Total Life*, p. 88.

## Lesson 7 Ecclesiastes 8:1-15 (7-6-25)

### I. THE CONTEXT OF ECCLESIASTES 8:1-15 IN SOLOMON'S ARGUMENT

A. Solomon continues to answer the question how can God be s\_\_\_\_\_ when there are is so much in\_\_\_\_\_ and w\_\_\_\_\_ under the sun?

B. Solomon's response is three-fold:

1. Civil g\_\_\_\_\_ restrains evil-doers (8:2-5; cf. Romans 13:1-5, I Peter 2:13-18)
2. God has appointed d\_\_\_\_\_ to limit the destructiveness of evil men (Eccl. 8:8)
3. God has also appointed a day of r\_\_\_\_\_, the final J\_\_\_\_\_, to deal out final divine justice (Eccl. 8:12-13)

### II. CIVIL GOVERNMENT IS A DIVINELY ORDAINED INSTUTION (8:1-6)

A face that shine with wisdom \_\_\_\_\_

Keep the King's command \_\_\_\_\_

On oaths and their legitimacy \_\_\_\_\_

Serve the king but not the King's evil plans \_\_\_\_\_

Do not be hasty to leave the King's presence means \_\_\_\_\_

The word of the king implies a\_\_\_\_\_ and assumes most rulers think their will is L\_\_\_\_\_

Keeping the King's command in indifferent matters is not \_\_\_\_\_

A wise counselor discerns both time and judgment, meaning \_\_\_\_\_

Applications: (1) It is lawful for a Christian to \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Politics indeed is the art of the \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Honor the office when even the man is \_\_\_\_\_

(4) If you serve the administration, be prepared for the classic conflict of Henry VIII vs. Sir. Thomas Moore

(5) Real politik again: Do not put your trust in princes \_\_\_\_\_

### III. WICKEDNESS IS RESTRAINED BY THE DAY OF DEATH (8:7-9)

---

---

**IV. THE LAST JUDGEMENT CORRECTS THOSE INQUITIES THAT CIVIL GOVERNMENT FAILS TO CORRECT (8:10-14)**

---

---

---

**V. OUR RESPONSE WHEN CIVIL GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY APPROXIMATED JUSTICE (8:15)**

---

---

*“What should a man do in a world of powerful kings and wicked men who look as though they got away with it? He should prepare to make merry; he should enjoy himself—he should eat, drink, and be merry all his days under the sun (v.15).”*

*--Doug Wilson, Joy At the End of the Tether, p. 86.*