

“WISDOM AT WORK”

Ecclesiastes 8

Pastor Steve Cavallaro

“On one level after another we find ourselves pinned down, hunted down and disoriented.”

-Derek Kidner

I. How does wisdom work when we think about government? (vv. 2-9)

“Keep the king’s command, because of God’s oath to him.”

“Don’t be hasty to go from his presence.”

“Do not take your stand in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases.”

“there is a time and away for everything”

“when man had power over man to his hurt.”

Wisdom works to _____ as if submitting to _____.

Proverbs 24:21-22

Romans 12:17; 13:1-2

1 Peter 2:13-14

“When people are under the rule of ungodly authority, it is tempting to rebel in an unrighteous way.”

-Philip Ryken

II. How does wisdom work in the face of injustice? (vv.10-14)

“the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily”

“the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.”

“Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life...”

“I know that it will be well with those who fear God.”

Wisdom works trust in Jesus to bring _____.

Luke 3:14

Revelation 20:12

“There are few things more obnoxious than the sight of wicked men flourishing and complacent.”

-Derek Kidner

III. Submission and waiting don't sound like fun. Does wisdom work drudgery? (vv. 1, 14-15)

"A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed."

"And I commend joy"

"eat and drink and be joyful ... days of his life that God has given him under the sun."

Wisdom works _____ in Jesus now and forever.

Psalms 23; 118:24

Philippians 4:4

"But the wisdom of the gospel turns the frown of sin into the smile of grace."

-Philip Ryken

"If God is always on our side, then we always have the deep contentment of knowing that he is near, even in our darkest trials."

-Philip Ryken

Digging Deeper:

1. Why do you find it difficult to trust God with political problems?
2. How can you wisely work peacefully for change?
3. How is God's patience a good thing?
4. How do you struggle with God's patience?
5. In what ways has God given you cause for joy now?
6. How can you schedule time to meditate on God's future promises for present joy?