

ECCLESIASTES

FINDING MEANING IN THIS LIFE

Message Title: **Living Within the Limits**

Ecclesiastes 8:1-17 NKJV | Sunday AM, November 28th, 2021

Pastor Jack Lamb

Who *is* like a wise *man*? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, And the sternness of his face is changed. Obey Authorities for God's Sake

²I say, "Keep the king's commandment for the sake of your oath to God. ³Do not be hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand for an evil thing, for he does whatever pleases him."

⁴Where the word of a king *is*, *there is* power; And who may say to him, "What are you doing?" ⁵He who keeps his command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, ⁶Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, Though the misery of man increases greatly.

⁷For he does not know what will happen; So who can tell him when it will occur? ⁸No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, And no one has power in the day of death. *There is* no release from that war, And wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it. ⁹All this I have seen, and applied my heart to every work that is done under the sun: *There is* a time in which one man rules over another to his own hurt. ¹⁰Then I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of holiness, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done. This also *is* vanity. ¹¹Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of

men is fully set in them to do evil. ¹²Though a sinner does evil a hundred *times*, and his *days* are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. ¹³But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong *his* days, *which are* as a shadow, because he does not fear before God. ¹⁴There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just *men* to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked *men* to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also *is* vanity. ¹⁵So I commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this will remain with him in his labor *all* the days of his life which God gives him under the sun. ¹⁶When I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth, even though one sees no sleep day or night, ¹⁷then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. For though a man labors to discover *it*, yet he will not find *it*; moreover, though a wise *man* attempts to know *it*, he will not be able to find *it*.

Introduction

3. How do we Respond to _____ - vs. 15-17

Application Questions

1. *Growing up, what did you think of the “rules” in the Bible? Did you see them as freeing or constricting? How does viewing them as God’s design for your flourishing alter your view?*
2. *Should Christians participate in protests against the government? Should Christians attempt to overthrow the government?*
3. *Is injustice prevalent in our society? If so, what do you think are the worst injustices we face?*
4. *What are some things you would love to know the answer to, but you know you will not get the answer? What does this lack of knowledge tell you about the human condition?*

BE A DOER. Your responsibility, by God’s enabling, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil 2:12-13; 1 Tim 4:7-9; James 1:22-27). As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions: (1) How does God want my beliefs/actions to change? (2) How can I accomplish this change? (3) What is the first step toward bringing about this change?