

Ecclesiastes 8 - 10

**Wisdom for Living
for the Son
Under the Sun**

(Really) Short Version

We are called to obey those in authority and should seek godly wisdom in all things. Life isn't fair. While we live "under the sun," we need to live "for the Son." We're to enjoy the life God has given us. We are all going to die one day -- unless the Lord returns before our time comes -- and everything we say, do, and even think, will be judged by the One who loved us and gave His life for us.

Keep the King's Command

Who is like the wise?

And who knows the interpretation of a thing?

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

I say: **Keep the king's command, because of God's oath to him. Be not hasty to go from his presence.** Do not take your stand in an evil cause, **for he does whatever he pleases. For the word of the king is supreme, and who may say to him, "What are you doing?"** Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and **the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way. For there is a time and a way for everything,**

Keep the King's Command

although man's trouble lies heavy on him. For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be? No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death. There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it. **All this I observed while applying my heart to all that is done under the sun, when man had power over man to his hurt.**

Ecc1 8:1-9 (ESV)

Those Who Fear God Will Do Well

Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity. **Because 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, **yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. But it will not be well with the wicked,** neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

Eccl 8:10-13 (ESV)

Man Cannot Know God's Ways

There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that **there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous.** I said that this also is vanity.

Eccl 8:14 (ESV)

Man Cannot Know God's Ways

And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, **then I saw all the work of God**, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. **However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even** though **a wise man** claims to know, he **cannot find it out.**

Eccl 8:15-17 (ESV)

Death Comes to All

But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. **It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil,** to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. **This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all.**

Death Comes to All

Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

Ecc1 9:1-6 (ESV)

Enjoy Life with the One You Love

Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

Eccl 9:7-10 (ESV)

Hope in the Living God

Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

1 Ti 4:7b-10 (ESV)

Wisdom Better Than Folly

Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

Eccl 9:11-12 (ESV)

Wisdom Better Than Folly

I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard.

The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Ecc1 9:13-18 (ESV)

Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench;

so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

**A wise man's heart inclines him to the right,
but a fool's heart to the left.**

Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense,
and he says to everyone that he is a fool.

**If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave
your place,**

for calmness will lay great offenses to rest.

There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were an error proceeding from the ruler: folly is set in many high places, and the rich sit in a low place. I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on the ground like slaves.

He who digs a pit will fall into it,

and a serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall.

He who quarries stones is hurt by them,

and he who splits logs is endangered by them.

If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge,

he must use more strength,

but wisdom helps one to succeed.

If the serpent bites before it is charmed,
there is no advantage to the charmer.

**The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor,
but the lips of a fool consume him.**

The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness,
and the end of his talk is evil madness.

A fool multiplies words,
though no man knows what is to be,
and who can tell him what will be after him?

The toil of a fool wearies him,
for he does not know the way to the city.

Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child,
and your princes feast in the morning!

Happy are you, O land, when your king is the son of the
nobility,

and your princes feast at the proper time,
for strength, and not for drunkenness!

Through sloth the roof sinks in,

and through indolence the house leaks.

**Bread is made for laughter,
and wine gladdens life,
and money answers everything.**

**Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king,
nor in your bedroom curse the rich,
for a bird of the air will carry your voice,
or some winged creature tell the matter.**

Eccl 10:1-20 (ESV)

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Pr 27:17 (NIV)

“The heart of a fool is in his mouth but the mouth of the wise man is in his heart.”

Ben Franklin

Your (My) Charge

Seek Godly wisdom; wisdom from above.

Our lives under the sun should also be lived in
the Son, that is the Lord Jesus.

Seek to grow in holiness, to be more like Him on
a daily basis.

Commitment

**I am called to obey those in authority and will
seek godly wisdom in all things**

I will live for the Son while I live under the sun