

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Who's in Charge?* (Ecclesiastes 8:1-17)

**Summary:** Even when life doesn't make sense, our good God is still in charge.

### **1. Since God is in Charge...Obey Authorities even when you Don't Like It (Ecclesiastes 8: 1-9)**

- According to the proverb in verse 1, what does wisdom have the ability to do? Wisdom teaches us that our countenance matters before those in authority over us, and so, we must respect and obey those authorities even when we don't like it. Think about how you react when you disagree with the authorities God has placed in your life. How do the wise react?
- Both Solomon and Paul (Romans 13) give reasons why we are to obey the ruling authorities. What are these reasons? In what ways do these truths renew our minds and thus work to mortify sinful attitudes and behaviors toward ungodly authorities? Furthermore, what do the wise know that enables them to be patient and endure during times of unwise and ungodly rule? Are there times when Christians must disobey the ruling authorities? In what manner is this to be done?
- "The sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which the child of God rests his head at night, giving perfect peace." (C.H. Spurgeon) Our reactions to elections can serve as a type of litmus test in regard to our hearts. How we respond to their outcome reveals where we place our hope. If every possible political outcome were to go "wrong" in your eyes on an election night, could you go to bed with peace and joy in your heart? If not, what truths and promises from God's Word could you memorize and meditate upon to sanctify your mind in this area?

### **2. Since God is in Charge ... Find Joy even when Life Doesn't Seem Fair (Ecclesiastes 8: 10-15)**

- Watch the news for 15 minutes and you will most likely encounter examples of Solomon's lament. The wicked seem to prosper in their wickedness and are at times extolled for it. Under the sun, evil often seems to prevail. Study Solomon's response in vv. 12-13. In light of what he has just said in the previous two verses, how is he able to make this statement?
- In verse 15, Solomon commends joy in the gifts God has given to us; however, relentless seeking for answers to questions "above our paygrade" can rob us of such joy. Instead of pining after answers one can't find, how should the Christian think so that he is content in whatever station the Lord places him? How can you help your brothers and sisters do this as well?

### **3. Since God is in Charge ...Trust God even when You Can't Find the Answers (Ecclesiastes 8: 16-17)**

- Solomon concludes with stating that no matter how hard one may try, God's ways are beyond finding out. God has, however, granted to us His sufficient Word. Read Deuteronomy 29:29. When life doesn't make sense, why and how should we turn to Christ?
- Read 1 Peter 2:21-25. How will remembering Christ's suffering help you when you can't find answers or explanations to your own troubles?