**“The Look of Wisdom”**

**16th in “The Good Life” Series**

**Ecclesiastes 8:1-9**

May 14, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

7) Read Romans 13:1-7. How does the apostle Paul explain what “God’s oath”

 in v. 2 might mean?

8) What are some ways Christians should show their submission and respect

 for the governing authorities God has placed above them? How have

 Christians not always done this?

9) What are some ways Christians can appropriately and respectfully challenge

 evil governing authorities without sinning (cf. v. 3)? How can we know if

 our concern is a personal preferences (subjective policies) or a truly evil or

 unbiblical practice (cf, v. 9)?

10) How are you trusting in the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:16) right

 now as you submit to the governing authorities God has placed over you?

**Further study this week**: 1 Cor. 1:18-24 on Christ/the gospel as wisdom (Mon); Rom 13:1-7 on submitting to governing authorities (Tues); Psalm 67 on “shine his face” (Wed); Acts 5:27-32 on challenging rulers (Thurs); Rev. 19:11-16 on Jesus as King (Fri).

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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**Introduction**



**Introduction**

In this passage God describes the look of wisdom in his children, a life transformed by and submitted to God.

**The Text: Ecclesiastes 8:1-9**

1. Wisdom changes us, because true wisdom is grounded in Jesus Christ (v. 1).

*(a) Wisdom makes you more merciful toward and understanding of*

 *others.*

 *(b) Wisdom changes how you look and feel – the hardness of sin*

 *softens by the grace and goodness of God.*

2) Wisdom humbles us, because true wisdom submits to God and his

 assigned authorities (vv. 2-9).

 *(a) Governing authorities, are assigned by God (v. 2)*

*(b) Governing authorities may not be good (v. 9).*

*(c) Governing authorities may be appropriately challenged, but not*

 *preferences or “evil causes” (v. 3)*

 *(d) Let your conscience guide your actions, and be above reproach*

 *(vv. 5-6)*

 *(e) Governing authorities are limited & bounded –not God but his*

 *assigned mediators of authority (vv. 7-8).*

**Response**

* The gospel transforms us to look like wisdom.

**Would you like to be involved in a Small group? Contact Pastor Brad at pastorbrad@hefc.net**

**The Look of Wisdom**

Ephesians 8:1-9

1. Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 (for biblical-theological context). What does it mean that Jesus Christ is “wisdom” for the Christian?
3. Why might it be significant that the start of 1 Cor. 4: 20 and Eccl 8:1 sound so similar?
4. Based upon v. 1c (i.e., “face shine” – cf. Num. 6:25), how does a Christian whose life is grounded in the gospel/wisdom of God become more merciful and understanding of others? What might be stopping a Christian from acting this way?
5. Based upon v. 1d (i.e., “face is changed”), how does a Christian whose life is grounded in the gospel/wisdom of God become less hardened by sin and experience more fully the grace and goodness of God? Again, what might be stopping a Christian from experiencing this?
6. How does v. 2 suggest that Kings, or governing authorities, are established and assigned by God?