

I COUNSEL THEE

ECCLESIASTES 8

Text: Ecc 8:2

(Ecclesiastes 8:2) "I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God."

Introduction:

The writer is now giving some advice concerning some of the things that he has observed thus far. He makes here some suggestions, which if followed would be wise.

Notice

1. ASSAY WISDOM (v. 1-5)

A. Real wisdom comes from God, and only God can change a man's life.

(Ecclesiastes 8:1-5) "Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. {2} I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God. {3} Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an

evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him. {4} Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? {5} Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment."

B. It is wise to be obedient to authority.

1. Obedience has its reward as does rebellion.

2. ARRANGE FOR DEATH (V. 5-8)

(Ecclesiastes 8:5-8) "Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. {6} Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him. {7} For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be? {8} There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it."

(Hebrews 9:27) "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

A. It is the wise who understands the times and realizes that judgment is coming.

(Revelation 20:12-13) "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

B. God is in control of life.

1. Man whether wise or unwise, whether ruler or a pauper is at God's mercy.

3. AVOID WICKEDNESS (v. 8B-13)

(Ecclesiastes 8:8-13) "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. {9} All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt. {10} And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so

done: this is also vanity. {11} Because 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. {12} Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: {13} But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God."

A. It is not the answer to any problem or situation (8b)

1. It shall not deliver

2. Those who try wickedness to become known are forgotten soon as well

B. Judgment though slow in coming sometimes will still be carried out. (v. 11)

C. It is still wise to fear God, even when judgment to the wicked is prolonged.

D. It is still foolish to behave and act as if there is no God, which results in no good.

4. ACCEPT THE WILL OF GOD (v. 14-17)

(Ecclesiastes 8:14-17) "There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity. {15} Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun. {16} When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:) {17} Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea farther; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it."

A. Sometimes wicked men prosper and just men have trouble. (v. 14)

B. We are not to fret over this, but rather enjoy the blessings of God. (v. 14, 15)

C. We don't need to try to figure everything out, just accept that God is in control (v. 16, 17)