

The Benefits of Fearing God Notes

Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

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Main Point: Only personal conversion through Christ, not political conviction, will lead to lasting change.

Preliminary Points

1. I'm a _____, not a political pundit.
2. Some of you will think I went too far, while others of you will think I didn't go far _____.

Principles from Ecclesiastes 8

1. Reflect _____ (Ecclesiastes 8:1).
 - When God gives His wisdom to us, it makes our faces "shine," which is the idea of having a "sunny countenance which gives off _____" (Psalm 34:5).
2. _____ government (vs. 2-9).
 - We're to _____ to the governing authorities over us.
 - It's always best to stand for what is _____.
 - Daniel is a good example for us because he maintained his convictions by not compromising but was also _____ to the governing authorities and willing to suffer (1 Peter 2:13).
 - When God and government diverge, we're to obey _____ (Acts 5:29).
 - Points
 - Voting is a _____ issue.
 - Vote biblical values.
 - Our particular government requires the participation of its citizens to function properly.
 - Voting is a way to influence government for good.
 - Vote for the good of your neighbor.
 - Vote your conscience.
 - Vote on principles, not promises.
 - Vote on policies, not personality.
 - Vote on facts, not feelings.
 - No president or elected official will provide _____ we're looking for.
 - Our help and hope must always be in the Lord our God.
 - God is supremely _____.
 - God will still be on His _____ (Lamentations 3:22-23)!
 - The Almighty will _____ His purposes, no matter who is president.

- He has worked out His purposes under every _____ imaginable from Egypt to Babylon to Rome, through world wars and every circumstance (Proverbs 21:1).
 - Jesus is not running for President, but He is running the _____ (Psalm 22:28).
 - _____ should be the best citizens (Ephesians 4:32, Galatians 6:10, Romans 12:21).
 - Our primary commitment must be to the Great Commandment and the Great _____.
 - Love God with everything we have (Mark 12:30).
 - Love others as we love ourselves (Mark 12:31).
 - Make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - Keep politics in _____.
 - We need _____ in the church and an awakening in our land (Psalm 85:6).
 - Recognize there are two kingdoms in _____.
 - Jesus is continuing to build His spiritual kingdom and this kingdom is often in conflict with earthly kingdoms
 - Christians have a _____ citizenship.
 - As Americans, we do have rights and privileges afforded us and we should take advantage of them by voting and being involved in the political process.
 - As born-again Christ followers, we are first and foremost citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20).
3. _____ God
- It's important to revere God, especially when our government is not godly (vs. 10-11).
 - Solomon is disturbed when he sees the wicked given beautiful funerals and flowery eulogies.
 - He's also troubled when he observes how consequences are not _____ for bad behavior.
4. Release _____ (vs. 14-15).
- We're called to enjoy life and to enjoy our labor (3:12-13).
5. Remain _____ (vs. 16-17).
- Even when we don't know what will happen, or why things don't always make sense, we're called to remain resolute in our faith.
 - God's ways are often _____ and difficult to understand.
 - In verse 17, we're reminded three times that we cannot "find it out."
 - No matter what happens, we must remain _____ (2 Corinthians 5:7)