

Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Ecclesiastes*

BIBLE TEXT | ECCLESIASTES 8:1-9

1 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.

2 I say: Keep the king's command, because of God's oath to him.

3 Be not hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases.

4 For the word of the king is supreme, and who may say to him, "What are you doing?"

5 Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way.

6 For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him.

7 For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be?

8 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.

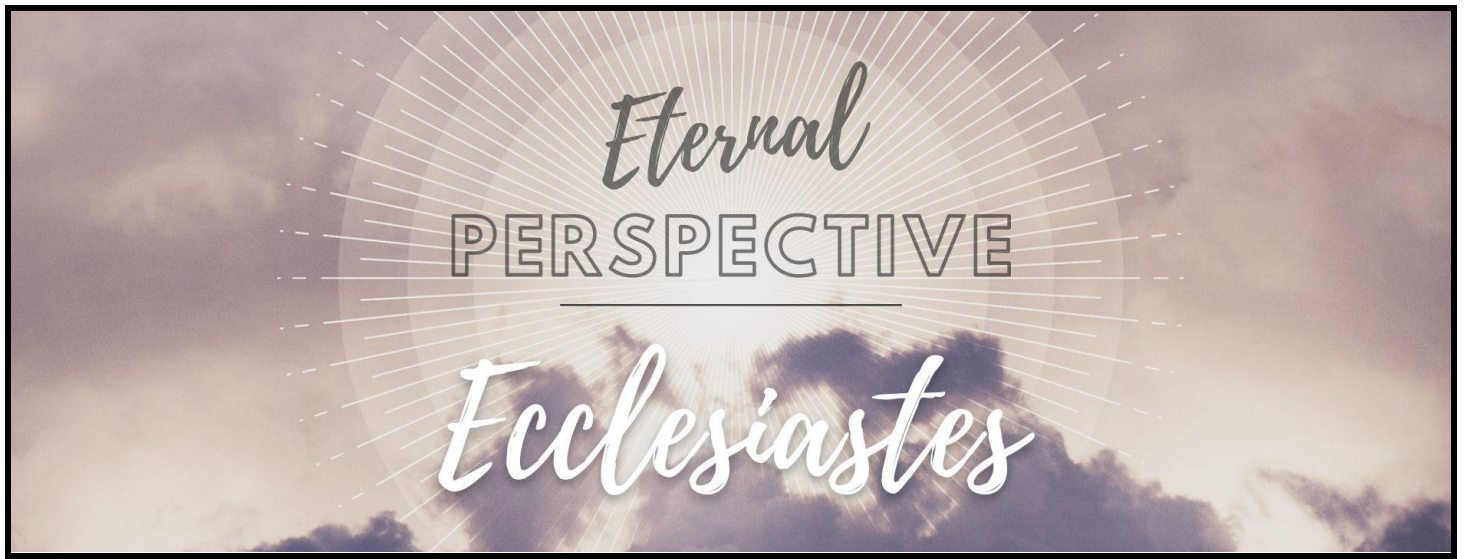
9 All this I observed while applying my heart to all that is done under the sun, when man had power over man to his hurt.

DEVOTIONAL FOR ECCLESIASTES 8:1-9

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When my children were younger, I told them often that they needed to "Obey, and obey quickly." This wasn't due to dictatorship but because there were times when I simply didn't have the luxury of explaining why I needed them to follow my instructions immediately.

Imagine: You know the bridge ahead is out. You see a car speeding toward it. You wave the car down, but instead of making sure they stop, you get into the car and allow the driver to continue on toward disaster while you tell them why they should stop.



Ecclesiastes 8 introduces us to the concept of kingship and begs us to acknowledge whom we submit to is in charge of us and our king. Accepting Christ's kingship over my life also means that I am to submit to Him, especially when I don't understand His plan. Verse 4 states, "The word of the king is supreme." Verse 5 continues with the promise, "The wise heart will know the proper time and the just way." I can't see what is ahead. I have to submit to my Lord that He knows best.

Submitting to my King is worship. Trusting Him to work out the details and acknowledge that He knows best is holding myself accountable to His desires, not my own. His infinite wisdom supersedes my short-sighted vision. He isn't a dictator. Instead, Jesus is a kind and loving King who wants the best for me.

Questions:

1. For starters, do you belong to King Jesus?
2. Are you allowing Jesus Christ to be the Lord of your life?
3. Are you seeking opportunities to obey Jesus?