

Impact 3:16

Justice Righteousness Wickedness

(Ec 3:16-17)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons entitled “Impact 3:16.”
 - a. We have been looking at those chapter 3 verse 16 verses within Scripture.
 - i. There are a number of 3:16’s that could and should have an “impact” on us other than just **Jn 3:16**.
 - b. We have looked at a few already...
 - i. **Gn 3:16; Ex 3:16; Jb 3:16**
 - c. Today we are going to look at Solomon’s book “Ecclesiastes.”
 - i. **Ec 3:16-17** “Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. 17 I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.”¹
3. Chapter 3 “a time for everything.”
 - a. This is aptly seen in the first eight verses.
 - i. **Ec 3:1-8** “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”
 - b. Solomon then concludes God has placed the fruit of man’s toil in His hands ie on God’s time table therefore man should find joy in all his toils for he will never fully “know” the outcome of them until the time comes.
 - i. **Ec 3:9-11, 13** “What gain has the worker from his toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time...13 everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God’s gift to man.”
 - c. We then find Solomon shifting then to man’s wickedness from **Ec 3:16-4:16**.
 - i. **Ec 3:16** “Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.”
 - ii. **Ec 4:1** “Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.”
4. Thus...
 - a. We find our text and study today that there are those who are wicked even in the highest of levels ie kings, judges, and rules who make judgments and rulings on others.
 - i. We have all heard and had our mouths gape open at some “verdicts.”
 - b. So how are we to handle understanding this truth?
 - i. We must understand...

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Impact 3:16

I. The World Is Sinful

- A. Mankind has never found himself perfect never having sinned
 - 1. The Bible is clear man “misses the mark.”
 - i. **Ro 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
- B. Man’s pride has him relying on self
 - 1. Self-reliance is a recipe for disaster.
 - i. **Pr 14:12** “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”
 - ii. **Je 10:23** “I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.”
- C. Those in the highest of positions in the world are often prideful
 - 1. This should not be a surprise to us!!!!
 - i. When judges, lawyers, elected officials and the like are not righteous and just this should not be a surprise or cause us to marvel.
- D. Thus...
 - 1. We must understand the world is darkness and it hates the light.
 - i. **Jn 3:19-20** “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.”
 - 2. Too many think that “most people are good” in this world. This assumption is flawed.
 - i. Most are not good as good people seek out “The Source” of good, God.
 - a. **Mt 19:17** “And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”
 - b. **Mk 10:18** “And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?””
 - 3. Our expectation must be the world is full of sin.
 - i. This expectation can only be handled if we understand...

II. God Is Just

- A. God is perfect in all things
 - 1. He is perfect.
 - i. **Mt 5:48** “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
 - 2. His ways are perfect.
 - i. **Ps 18:30** “This God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.”
 - 3. His knowledge is perfect.
 - i. **Jb 37:16** “Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge,”

Impact 3:16

4. His patience is perfect.
 - i. **I Ti 1:16** “But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”
5. His gifts are perfect.
 - i. **Ja 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”
- B. God is therefore perfectly just in all His judgments
 1. **Ps 145:17** “The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.”
 2. **I Jn 3:7** “Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.”
- C. Thus...
 1. We don’t have to worry about the injustice of this world and the evil that it pursues. We don’t have to worry/be anxious about our governments pursuit of legalizing homosexuality, stem cell research, etc...because God is the final judge.
 - i. **Ec 3:17** “I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.”
 2. This truth can only benefit us here on earth if we understand...

III. This Life Is Temporary

- A. This life is like...
 1. A breath.
 - i. **Jb 7:7** “Remember that my life is a breath; my eye will never again see good.”
 - ii. **Ps 39:5** “Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!”
 2. A puff of smoke.
 - i. **Ps 102:3** “For my days pass away like smoke, and my bones burn like a furnace.”
 3. A mist
 - i. **Ja 4:14** “yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”
 4. A gust of wind
 - i. **Ps 78:39** “He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again.”
- B. Thus...
 1. It doesn’t matter if the world is full of sin.
 2. It doesn’t matter if the government is falling apart.
 3. It doesn’t matter if the righteous do not get a “fair shake” on this earth.
 4. It doesn’t matter because our time here is short and we have a just God so we have no need to fixate on such things.

Impact 3:16

CONCLUSION

1. There can be no doubt that we should pray for all things God appoints and our government is one of those things.
 - a. **Ro 13:1** "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."
 - b. However even though mankind can choose to sin and governments are made up of mankind let us not grow weary over it but rather rejoice at opportunities to effect those we can, by teaching the gospel and let the rest settle where it may.
2. Question: Are you secure enough in your walk with God that the injustices of this world do not worry you?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not, why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**