

Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

Discourse V: Legalism vs. Licentiousness

Part B: Instructions

Study by Jason Labonte

I. Review

A. Theme: Life under the sun is emptiness.

B. Discourse I

1. Part A: Wisdom is better than folly, but both are emptiness.
2. Part B: Labor, too, is emptiness, but its profit is the good we find in it in relation to the eternal perspective of God.

C. Discourse II: A miscellany of disappointments further reveal the emptiness of life under the sun and our proper response to that.

D. Discourse III: Words are empty. Therefore vows should not be made. Rather, we should guard our steps, listen, and stand in awe of God in worship.

E. Discourse IV: Riches are empty. They encourage oppression, do not bring satisfaction, cause anxiety, and do not last.

Brief Restatement of Previous Points

F. Poetic Interlude: Various Comparisons

G. Discourse V: Legalism vs. Licentiousness: Part A: Introduction

II. The Discourse

A. Obeying the King (8:2-6) (See also Ro 13:1-7; 1 Pe 2:13-16.)

1. Oath/Obligation
2. Proper Respect
3. Standing for the Proper Causes

B. Licentiousness can be a trap. (8:7-10) (See also Gal 5:13.)

C. Problem of Delayed Punishment (8:11) (See also 1 Co 5:6-8; Gal 6:1-2.)

D. Unfairness (8:12-15)

Restatement of Futility of Wisdom (8:16-17)

III. Application & Discussion

- A. Is it necessary for us to have sworn allegiance to our country for v.2 to apply to us? Do we respect our governmental leaders? Do we justify breaking “unimportant” laws?**
- B. Are we too lax in our Christian freedom?**
- C. Do we have the courage to (properly) correct those we find in a sin before more damage is done?**
- D. On what basis does Koheleth “know” that it will go better with the ones fearing God?**