

## Passage Study Guide - Ecclesiastes 8:1-9:10

Series: Ecclesiastes



### Part 1: Getting to the Big Idea

*Questions get to the Big Idea of the passage*

1. Compare 8:1 with 8:17. What is the Preacher's conclusion about wisdom?
2. What is the Preacher's reflection on the righteous and the wicked? Are there contradictory ideas in that section (8:10-13)?
3. Consider 9:1-10. What is the Preacher's reflection on the issue of life and death? How does he end up with the conclusion to enjoy life?
4. The Preacher repeatedly encourages his readers to enjoy life throughout the book. Are there any patterns in the Preacher's exhortations to enjoy life?
5. Notice the Preacher's exhortation to enjoy life (2:24-25, 3:12-13, 5:18-20, 8:15 and 9:7-10) comes after he observes life's various vanities. What conclusion can we draw about life, wisdom and enjoyment?

### Part 2: Takeaways & Applications

*Applying the passage to our lives to grow in Christlikeness*

#### Fallen Condition Questions

*Considering our idols and temptations; how we are both sinners and sufferers*

1. Think about the following categories that the Preacher mentions in this text. Which of these categories do we struggle to understand or accept? How have we responded to these things in a way that reveals a lack of trust in God's love and guidance?
  - a) Injustice
  - b) Suffering
  - c) Vanity or purposelessness of life
2. Consider the categories below: what are some of the things in our lives that we are currently preoccupied with? How have these things prevented us from enjoying life as a gift from God?
  - a) Achievements & aspirations
  - b) Relationships & family
  - c) Past & present suffering

#### Personal Renewal Questions

*Considering how we can be renewed and transformed in Christlikeness*

3. Read Matthew 6:25-34. How does knowing God through the gospel help us to trust Him when we are confronted by things we don't understand and even enjoy life as God's gift in a broken world?

**Shaping Church Culture Questions**

*Considering how the gospel shapes and permeates the culture within our community*

4. The Preacher encourages our enjoyment of God and life to not just be internal but for our joy to exuberate into outward praise and expression (9:8). What are some blessings that God has given us in our lives? Share and give thanks for them, rejoicing in God who loves us and gives us good gifts.