



## ST. PAUL'S BIBLE STUDY

*Ecclesiastes*  
8:1-9

### **Pastor's Notes**

V. 1 Wisdom is different from folly. The wise person accepts that he or she will not comprehend everything in life. Furthermore, the wise person is truly prepared for life, for he or she looks at things realistically. The fool does not understand reality but spends most of their time pretending that life is grand. The fool spends most of their time hiding from the real pains of life—even hiding from the reality of death.

V. 2 This verse speaks about the kingdom of the left. Indeed, we Christians function within two kingdoms. We live as citizens of the church and of the state. And as citizens of the state, we must keep in mind that we are to be obedient to the state—insofar as we don't sin. Keep in mind though that we are to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. In other words, let's not fool ourselves—the power corrupts people in the left-hand kingdom. If anything we should trust those in power less, not more. What does this mean? We should feel sorry for the fool who puts hope in the government to bring him relief and a perfect utopia. Life is tough; however, the government is not the perfect solution. It never has been and never will be. Oh, but how we forget history and believe the myth that a perfect utopia is attainable under the sun through the means of a certain political party!

V. 3 Be careful with kings and rulers. Don't leave too quickly, for a king may change his mind when you leave. Don't stick around too long to change the king's mind. You are nothing. You have no power. The king will often do whatever he wants.

V. 4 This is not speaking of a democracy. This is speaking of a monarchy or dictatorship. It is interesting to note that democracies in world history are short-lived.

V. 5-6 Simply stated, these verses mean, "Do what you are told!" Believe it or not, but simply being a good citizen and trying one's best to respect the left-hand authority, will result (generally speaking) in a peaceful life. Don't want to have trouble in your life? Don't break the law. Don't do drugs; pay your taxes; don't abuse your spouse; and the government will leave you alone!

V. 7 Ever run into someone who turns down a good job, holding out for a better job—but then that better job never comes? Yup, foolish! What Solomon is saying in verse 7 is: do not put off doing your present duty because you are waiting for something better. You don't know if something better will even come! The world is corrupt; things change. Can you depend on the future?

V. 8 We can't really control anything. We can't control the wind, war, death, and the wickedness of others! And so, we commend ourselves to the Lord who rules the heavens and the earth. We trust in the Lord and Him alone. God is big; people are small.

V. 9 What a great verse to consider. Life is hard under the sun. We have war, disease, death, drought, and so forth! This brings up a very good question, why do people have to make things worse with their pettiness? You know, why get so worked up about petty-stupid-insignificant things when life is already tough the way it is! Did somebody look at you wrong? Who cares! At least you are breathing, have food, and are not being shot at in war! Did someone cut you off in traffic? Who cares! At least you aren't dying of cancer at the moment! Is the store out of your favorite makeup? Who cares! At least you have money to buy such a luxury and are not living out of a cardboard box! Remember that life is tough under the sun; you don't have to make it worse than it already is for yourself and others!