

TUG OF WAR

JULY
19

ECCLESIASTES 8

DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

1. How does wisdom lead us to relate to God-appointed authorities (see also Romans 13:1–7)?
2. What truths in this chapter shatter our certainty regarding the future (on this earth) and our illusion of control?
3. How does an accurate perception of the future (and of eternity) impact our choices now according to verses 10-13?
4. Despite the things we can't know, what does God want us to enjoy in this life (verses 14-17)? What does that tell us about the character of our God?

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

1. In our divided political age, how can this chapter help us to “Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor” (1 Peter 2:17)?
2. Has a desire to “find out” how something will play out “under the sun” (a business venture, a relationship, a move, etc.) created a weariness in your heart? How can you seek joy in God and the gifts He has given even if you never “find it out?”
3. How can you graciously and winsomely help someone in your sphere of influence recognize the reality of coming judgment (v. 11-13) and the offer of refuge in Jesus Christ?

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

1. Father in heaven, please fill our hearts with Spirit-given wisdom and insight that we might walk in a manner worthy of You.
2. God, please make us a community of people who fear You and enjoy the gifts You give in a way that helps us enjoy You, the giver, more and more.
3. Lord, please use us as your ambassadors of reconciliation and through us help many see the saving work you are doing in Christ.