



### News to Know

- 1) We will have Refuge Wednesday at 6:30 in The Harbor
- 2) Our small groups will meet Sunday at 9:45 or 11:00 in Grace Cottage and Building B
- 3) This week, we'll be in Week 9 of our Romans Devotional.
- 4) Wednesday is the deadline to order a shirt. If you would like one, go [here](#).
- 5) Senior parents, Wednesday is the last day to get the reduced rate for the senior conference in January. The deadline to register is October 27. You can register [here](#).

### Refuge this Week

We all have things that happen in life we think are unfair. There are situations we think are unjust. In Ecclesiastes 8, Solomon brings up three areas of life he thinks are unfair and unjust. We'll talk about those as we continue our series through the Book of Ecclesiastes on Wednesday night at Refuge.

First, authorities can make life unfair. While he specifically talks about the government, the principle he introduces is the same for every authority figure in our lives. He tells us that even though they seem unjust sometimes, we must honor them. By honoring them, we honor God who has the ultimate authority in our lives. In his sovereignty, he has placed people in specific roles in specific times. So, we should obey every position of authority without regard to competency, morality, reasonableness, or any other caveat. We must obey them unless they cause us to act in a way that is contrary to God and His word. Where you can, be respectful. Where you can't, respectfully decline. This means, we must be careful who we submit to. If we are to obey the authorities over us, we need to be careful with the bosses, coaches, teachers, friends, spouses, and pastors we allow to influence our lives.

Second, lifespans can make life unfair. Solomon talks about the duration of someone's lifetime. Basically, it's unfair that a healthy person that eats right and exercises daily can live less than someone who lives an unhealthy lifestyle. The reality is that we can affect the quality of our lives but we cannot alter its duration. We can do things to make our lives better but we cannot determine how long we get to experience it. So, even though it may seem unfair that an evil person lives longer than a righteous person, God is still in control because even if their decisions on earth don't affect their lifespans, God will address them in eternity. God will make everything right one day, he will settle all accounts. We must view life with an eternal lens.

Third, outcomes in life can make life unfair. Solomon brings up a problem that we might all have. He writes about how it's unfair for righteous people to suffer and evil people to flourish. Sometimes the wicked get good and sometimes the good get evil. We must remember that it's better to have the approval of God than the acquisition of stuff. A common question asked is, "Why do bad things happen to good people." But, that's only happened one time in history, and that was on the cross. Jesus is the only "good" person to ever walk on earth. The only time a good person got bad was on the cross. And, because of that moment, we now have hope. Jesus lived under a terrible government, had a short lifespan, and didn't get what he deserved. The gospel is about unfairness, and it's because of that unfairness that we can have life.

### **Resource of the Week**

This week's resource is titled, "When Parenting Worries Take Our Eyes off God." It can be found [here](#) .



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