

We left off Sunday, on the last phrase of Ecclesiastes 3:15, when I said that Solomon seemed to be teaching us that every generation of humanity is connected.

Consider that across every generation of time: The wisdom of God will continue to be given to “the few” and “the elect of God” who will continue to run toward the strait gate that leads to eternal life; **in contrast**, the foolishness of fools will continue perpetuate itself in the lives of sinners in every generation; regrettably, there will be “many” who will not forsake the broad/wide way that leads to destruction for the strait gate that leads to eternal life. **This has happened, is happening, and will happen!**

Let us not repeat the sins of past generations of sinners but let us lay aside every weight, and the sins which doth so easily beset us, and let us run the same race (by faith) as that great cloud of witnesses (of saints of God) that went before us.

Let us not forget these sobering words (of God) written by Solomon:

“And God requireth that which is past”

And so, every one of us will all give an account of ourselves to God at the judgment of the great day, when TIME has passed; when every word and work, every attitude, every secret, and every thought of our hearts will be judged by God.

In (V16), Solomon turned himself to behold two specific places; two honorable entities; institutions in the world in which there is an enduring expectation that judgment, truth, equity, and righteousness ought always to be found in them. Ecclesiastes 3:16-17

What places was Solomon speaking of? Our courts, our judicial system, or government, and our places of worship; our churches. Institutions of great authority that stand in the place of God; who are called to speak for God.

It struck me on Monday when I was on my way to work, I saw a billboard with the name of a Politician on it; that person’s name was preceded by the words “The Honorable”.

Romans 13:1-7: We are to render honor to these God ordained authorities

But what Solomon beheld in these “honorable” places/institutions was wickedness, prejudice, unrighteousness, and ungodliness. Thus the terrible effect of man’s sin on institutions of judgment and righteousness.

Powerful Institutions are only safe from corruption and wickedness when those appointed over them understand that there is no power, but that of God; and they are only safe when those appointed over them consistently submit themselves in their leadership to God.

Where there is no freedom from sin, there will be bondage to it! Earthly power in the hands of “untamed” sinners is extremely dangerous.

Charles Bridges: “Power, if it be not the instrument of promoting godliness (I added: righteousness and judgment) only makes its possessor a wolf or a tiger to his fellow creatures. So dangerous is earthly elevation. The pinnacle is a hazardous position. Our corrupt nature can bear but little raising”

Where there is no fear of falling into sin by those who are in powerful positions of authority in the world, and when there is no dependence upon God to keep us from sin; even good men and women are prone to fall prey to the sins of abuse of power and corruption.

This is what Solomon saw in his own kingdom and among his own people.

He saw the courts; judges, magistrates, and lawyers who had become corrupt, prejudiced, and biased; the temple and synagogues, places that should have been places of righteousness and godliness, were instead full of iniquity, unrighteousness, and ungodliness because of the pride of those who were in authority over them.

Psalm 82:1-5, Isaiah 5:20-23

Regrettably, corruption and unrighteousness often exists where we ought to see judgment and righteousness!

(V17): We MUST trust that God will judge the righteous and wicked of those who are in powerful positions in the world: as it is written in Psalm 82; *God is judging among the gods: (meaning, He is judging those who are in positions of great authority in the world):* judges, presidents, senators; those who exercise judgment and authority over the affairs of people in the world. God sees every injustice and every perversion of judgment, and He will call these “judges” (these gods) unto judgment of the great day, when every earthly judge will be judged by Jesus Christ.

Pastors/Elders who have been called to the highest of positions of authority in the world will be judged on how they led the people of God, and how they represented God and spoke for God!

Exodus 18:19-22, 23:6-9, 2 Chronicles 19:5-7, Ecclesiastes 5:8

So what are we to do? How are we to react to the perverting of judgment, corruption, wickedness, and unrighteousness in the world in governmental leaders, judges, senators, and in churches and pastors?

First: If you're in a position of authority, examine yourself! *Matthew 7:1-5*

We are NOT to avenge ourselves, but we are submit ourselves by faith to our God with patience as we wait for the judgment of the great day, when God will set everything right.

As children of God, we are not to avenge ourselves or take matters into our own hands in this life; we are not to be contentious protestors of the world, our nation, or our government; but we are to be witnesses and heralds of the gospel of Christ, which is the greatest message!

We are to urgently contend for the faith of Christ, pointing souls to His Person and work, and the REALITY of eternity in the next world, where there will be (EITHER) eternal damnation or eternal blessedness.

We are to leave the judgment of this world to "The Judge of all the earth, who knows what He is doing; He will do right"; God is the only One that knows EVEN!

Acts 17:31, Romans 12:19-21, Luke 18:6-8