

Thinking Biblically in an Evil World

Ecclesiastes 4:1-8

"So as long as the central point of man's existence lies in this present life, and this is not viewed as the precursor to eternity, there is no enduring consolation to lift us above the miseries of this present world." - Franz Delitzsch

Oppression (vs. 1-3)

Definition: "Using your power, authority or advantage to treat an individual or group unjustly, especially when that person or group of people have less power to defend themselves."

God *hates* oppression:

- Malachi 3:5 *"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of Hosts."*

Government: Put in place by God to punish evil and protect the innocent. - *Romans 13:1,4*

Elders: Even higher calling since they are ministers of the Bride of Christ (1 Peter 5:1-3)

Employers (masters): *"Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing you also have a Master in heaven."* - *Colossians 4:1*

Husbands: (Colossians 3:19, Ephesians 5:25)

Parents: *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, rather bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*

Envy (vs.4)

Envy is a bitter root that implants itself in the heart and causes us to become jealous and wicked towards our fellow man.

Envy leads to murder (Cain and Abel), bitterness - *"a tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot"* - *Proverbs 14:30*, anger - *"for jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge."* - *Proverbs 6:34*

Idleness (vs.5)

"For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living." - *2 Thess 3:10-12*

Lonely Ambition (vs. 7-8)

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." *Matt 6:24*

"He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income. This is also vanity." - *Ecclesiastes 5:10*

Solution (vs. 6)

"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure with turmoil in it." *Prov. 15:16*

Worship: What a Friend We Have in Jesus — *Various Artists*

As The Deer — *Various Artists*

Service Times: Sundays: Sunday School 9am/Prayer 9:45am/Church 10:30am; Mondays: Legacy Practicum 6pm;
Tuesdays: Bible Study — Women 6:30pm/Men 7pm; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20pm/Church 7pm

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS: Monetary Donations for Angel Tree:** Please see the October Newsletter for more information about our monthly donation collection! ***THIS Sunday is the LAST day for this collection!***

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Children's Ministry **AND** the Cleaning Ministry are looking for volunteers to join their ministries. If you are a Church Member and you would like to join the Children's Ministry, or have questions about volunteering in this ministry, please see Katie Sapp! If you are interested in joining the Cleaning Ministry, or have questions about volunteering for this ministry, please see Krystal.

★*For all other announcements, please see the October Newsletter!*