Ecclesiastes 8:1-9 – Wisdom Concerning Kings
January 5th, 2020 – Pastor Nick Neves

Chapter 8 opens with general praise for seeking the wisdom of God. One whose wisdom is conformed to God's truth will see great benefits:

Wisdom makes the _____ shine.

Wisdom dispels the _____ of a man striving against God.

Man does not make the best of leaders. We see evidence of that in the way that, as verse 9 describes, 'man often wields power over man to his hurt'. **But regardless of man's leadership failures, we cannot simply decide to ignore these governments and rule ourselves.**

Verse 2 – It is _____ to uphold the commands of the King.

What *vow* is being referred to here in verse 2?

_____
_____
_____

***_____ puts kings and rulers in control, so it is obedience to _____ when we obey the earthly governments that are over us.**
(See also Romans 13, Titus 3:1, 1 Peter 2:13-17)

QUESTION: Why would God, in His sovereignty, ever allow a self-serving, dishonest king to rule over His people?

_____
_____
_____

Verse 3 – Do not be _____ to depart from the king.

QUESTION: Are there times when it may be justified to depart from the king?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

The example of three Jewish youth, exiled to Babylon... (see Daniel 3)

- Their resistance was _____
- Their resistance was _____
- Their resistance secured a legal penalty, which they _____
- God showed His right to over-ride the authority of the earthly king by sparing them!

Notes on Pastor Wang Yi, of Early Rain Covenant Church