

**Ecclesiastes 8:10-14 – The Problem with Pragmatism**

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – Pastor Nick Neves

Our passage today begins with an \_\_\_\_\_. Briefly describe the people that Solomon sees being memorialized:

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Though a proper burial was an honor in the Hebrew culture, and the wicked seemed to get what they didn't deserve by being remembered fondly after their death, the truth remains: They still \_\_\_\_\_. Their wicked ways did nothing to help them avoid sin's most serious judgment.

What emboldens the wicked to break God's command? One major component is the \_\_\_\_\_ in the execution of judgment upon the guilty. (see verse 11)

**PRAGMATISM:** assigning value to an idea or an action, not based on some universal decree made by God, but based on whether that idea or action is practically \_\_\_\_\_ in the here and now.

What is the problem with pragmatism? If pragmatism is so useful, what makes it dangerous?

1. God often calls us to do what goes against '\_\_\_\_\_ sense'

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2. Just because a way of life is POPULAR, that doesn't mean that it is \_\_\_\_\_. (see Matthew 7:13-14, John 10:9)

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3. Getting what you want now at the expense of everything you want later is a \_\_\_\_\_ way to live.

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This philosophy has made its impact not only on the level of the individual believer, but also at the level of church \_\_\_\_\_. What are some ways that pragmatism has crept into church?

So why, if pragmatism is so problematic, is it so widespread?

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In view of verse 14 - The term VANITY that we hear throughout this book does not just communicate *meaninglessness* – it also communicates the idea of \_\_\_\_\_.

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