

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”

Romans 2:4-6 (NIV)

- VIII. The vengeance of God may appear to come _____ but it comes _____.

“But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.”

Numbers 32:23 (NIV)

- IX. It is far wiser to live _____ and trust God with those who do _____.

“Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who fear God, who are reverent before him. Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.”

Ecclesiastes 8:12-13 (NIV)

“till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.”

Psalms 73:17 (NIV)

“Crime Doesn’t Pay”

Ecclesiastes 8:9-13

August 19, 2026

- I. Solomon was very _____ of the things of this world.

“All this I saw, as I applied my mind to everything done under the sun. There is a time when a man lords it over others to his own hurt.”

Ecclesiastes 8:9 (NIV)

- II. More important than learning the ways of this world is to understand the ways of the _____ of _____ and live them in this world.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

- III. A common way of this world is to _____ others.

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,”

Mark 10:42-43 (NIV)

- IV. It’s not _____ to take unfair advantage of those under one’s authority.

“All this I saw, as I applied my mind to everything done under the sun. There is a time when a man lords it over others to his own hurt.”

Ecclesiastes 8:9 (NIV)

1. God has _____ authority and submission, but he hasn't designed lording it over others.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God... For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.”

Romans 13:1, 4 (NIV)

2. It harms those _____.

“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”

Proverbs 29:2 (NIV)

3. It harms _____.

“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 16:18 (NIV)

“Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless.”

Exodus 22:22-24 (NIV)

“Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)

- V. Solomon saw how the wicked authorities seem to _____ and are _____ in their abuse of power and authority and it did not seem right to him.

“Then too, I saw the wicked buried—those who used to come and go from the holy place and receive praise in the city where they did this. This too is meaningless.”

Ecclesiastes 8:10 (NIV)

- VI. It is not wise to think that justice _____
means justice is _____.

“When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people’s hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.”

Ecclesiastes 8:11 (NIV)

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

- VII. Delay in judgement against wickedness means a
_____ of the judgement
against wickedness.