

# Recovering AWE

(aw) n. strong feeling of amazement

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, May 28/29, 2016 Ray Davis

## “Humility” Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

In our broken world there are two ways we try to be our own Savior and Lord: Elder brothers (religion/moral conformity) divide the world in two: “The good people (like us) are in and the bad people, who are the real problem with the world, are out.”

Younger brothers (irreligion/self-discovery) even if they don't believe in God at all, do the same thing, saying: “No, the open-minded and tolerant people are in and the bigoted, narrow-minded people, who are the real problem with the world, are out.” –“The Prodigal God”- Timothy Keller

Both of these self-salvation projects are motivated out of pride! (Luke 15:11-32) But Jesus says: “The humble are in and the proud are out.” (Luke 18:14) James 4:6-“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

### HUMILITY IS...

#### Ecclesiastes 8:1

What is Wisdom? It is seeing and responding to life from God's perspective & power (Pro1:2-3). Where do we get wisdom? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Pro.9:10). What is the Fear of the Lord? It is a life-changing joyful awe and wonder of the beauty and glory of who Jesus is and what he has done for us that ruins us for anything else (Pro.2:1-5). Humility can't be found by direct pursuit but is a by-product of the fear of the Lord (Pro15:33, 22:4).

- **Not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. It is the freedom of self-forgetfulness because you are captivated with the beauty & glory of God.** Phil2:3; Ps34:4-5

#### Ecclesiastes 8:2-7

- **Living with what you don't like in such a way that you let your light shine before men so that they can see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.** Matt5:16
  - ✓ Honor God in all you do. V2b
  - ✓ Pick your battles carefully. V3
  - ✓ Authority is God given. V4
  - ✓ Don't be a part of ungodly schemes. V5
  - ✓ Look for the right time and process. V6

## Verses 8-14

- **Accepting the things I cannot change and trusting God is at work lovingly, skillfully and powerfully doing a thousand things only He can see.** Ps33:10-11; John5:22-24
  - ✓ The inevitability of death. (v8)
  - ✓ Disappointment and hurt by others. (v9)
  - ✓ The exaltation of deceptive people. (v10)
  - ✓ The injustices of life. (v11-14)

## Verse 15

- **Enjoying the life God has given you with deep gratitude without worry and bitterness.** (Eccl.2:24, 3:12-13, 5:18, 9:7)

## Verses 16-17

- **Acknowledging that knowing God and His ways are life's greatest and never-ending quest because He is infinite and we are finite.** Rom. 11:33-36; Isa. 55:8-9; Ps8:3-4; Phil2:3-11

## Growing Notes

- 1) In our broken world what are the two ways that people try to be their own Savior and Lord? Which one are you most prone to do? What motivates these two self-salvation projects? How is the Gospel different from these two?
- 2) Read Eccle8:1. What is wisdom and where do we get wisdom (Pro1:2-3, 9:10)? What is the fear of the Lord (Pro2:1-5)? How is humility a byproduct of the fear of the Lord (Pro15:33, 22:4)? Why would wisdom make your face shine (Ps34:4-5)?
- 3) Read Eccle8:2-7. How is letting your light shine even in difficult circumstances a sign of humility? Read Eccle8:8-14. How hard is it for you to accept the things you cannot change but at the same time believe that God is at work and will one day settle the score (Ps33:10-11; John5:22-24)?
- 4) Read Eccle8:15. How is gratitude a sign of humility and why are worry and bitterness not compatible with gratitude? Read Eccle8:16-17. Humility is acknowledging that knowing God and His ways are a never-ending quest but thank God, He chose to narrow that gap between His infiniteness and our finiteness by sending His Son into this world (Ps8:3-4; Phil2:3-11; John3:13; Col2:3). Explain. What is God speaking to you through this study? Pray.