

Fixing what is Broken

Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3

3:16: Place of judgment/justice:

In the city gate = governing society.

In humanity

Kenneth Webb

Injustice in our world: Slavery. Racism. Sexism. Economic injustice.

Abuse of power.

And so on... In the church too!

3:17: God will judge...but when??

3:18: He is "delaying" judgment so we see what humanity truly is

We know what justice is – unlike animals

Yet we so often fail to do it – like animals

3:19-21: So if death is the end...

Without resurrection, injustice wins, making life meaningless

3:22: Making the best of a bad situation

Which raises the question... Can everyone enjoy their work?

4:1: For the oppressed work adds to the burdens of life

4:2-3: Humans long for justice

Without it, life is a terrible burden

Ecclesiastes' Claim

Without justice, life is a terrible burden

That is why...

Creation rejoices that God will judge: Psalm 98:7-9

Jesus will Judge: Acts 17:30-31

In Jesus' words: John 5:22-27

The Big Idea

Jesus will bring justice to all people

...giving life forever to all who trust in Him

...otherwise only judgment

Trust in Jesus

For grace = love that covers our sins

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." *Romans 3:23-24*

Justified

Declared right with God ☐ no condemnation

Loved by God like He loves Jesus



"For by grace you have been saved through faith" *Ephesians 2:8*

For judgment

Jesus will make right what is wrong

"But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells." *2 Peter*

3:13

So we must love and not seek revenge

"Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink." *Romans 12:19-20*

So we must forgive

"But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." *Matthew 6:15*

Fixing our Broken World

Trust Jesus

To forgive our sin

To bring righteousness

Now in part

Then in full

Our actions...

Forgive

Bless even our enemies

Do justice & love mercy

Walk humbly with God



Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. How do you respond to this claim? "Without justice, life is a terrible burden."
2. Why must Christian not seek revenge, and instead, forgive and love those who have harmed us or seek our harm (our "enemies")?
3. What and who helps you do that? Where are you doing that today?

Conversation Starter

Jesus said: "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." *Luke 6:27-28* What is your reaction to this teaching?