

## Application Questions

Ecclesiastes 8:2-8:9

What is the purpose government exists?

Without government, what would our world be like? Why is that?

Considering verse 2, why should we submit to the rule of government?

Considering your life, what are the various governments God has placed over you? Who are the authorities in your life? On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being wholehearted submission to your governing authorities, how submissive are you to your authorities?

How do you manifest a trust to God through your submission to authority? How does your rebellion to authority reflect distrust in God's sovereignty?

Ponder for a moment the words of Isaiah 9:6-7. What is the foundation of our governing authorities? How long is Christ's reign to last? How is Christ's reign acknowledged in things we do, say and think?

Consider verses 5 and 6 – how are we to deal with areas of disagreement with our authority? Do you do this?

Looking at verse 6 and 7, what do we learn about the outcome of our appeals? What should we do when our appeal fails? Verse 8 presents the concept of being at war. With whom are you at war? In what way are you at war with your authorities? In what way do you recognize the spiritual battle around you?

## Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

## Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

## A note to our visitors

It is a pleasure having you as a special guest in our Sunday worship today. We hope that you feel warmly welcomed by those around you.

Our goal at Providence Church is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ through biblical worship and through a lifestyle of community to others. We consider it a privilege to make ourselves available to you and your family, and would appreciate the opportunity to get to know you better.

Perhaps you are new to the area and are searching for a church. Whether this is the case or whether you are simply visiting, we hope that it will not be your last time with us. Feel free to contact us at the church office (309-387-2600) if there is any way that we can be of service to you, or if you have questions that you would like answered about Providence Church or the Christian Faith.