**Message Notes Pastor Dave Gudgel**

**Date:** April 30, 2017 **Bible Focus:** Ecclesiastes 8:2-15

**Current Series:** The Chase

Message Title: Out of Control

**Realize You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ecc 8:2-6 -** Obey the king's command, I say, because you took an oath before God. 3 Do not be in a hurry to leave the king's presence. Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do whatever he pleases. 4 Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him, "What are you doing?" 5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. 6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.

**Realize You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ecc 8:7-9** – Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come? 8 No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the day of his death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not release those who practice it. 9All 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.

**Realize You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ecc 8:10-14 -** 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. 11 When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong. 12 Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go better with God-fearing men, who are reverent before God. 13 Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow. 14 There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.

**Two Take Homes:**

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**Ecc 8:15** - So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun.

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**Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

Ecclesiastes 8:2-15

1. Think of a recent time when you encountered an “out of your control” situation. How did you react? Could you have made a different response? If so, what could you have done different?
2. How well do you work with superiors of any kind? When they frustrate you, how do you respond? What can you learn from verses 2-6 that would help you respond with godly control in a situation that is out of your control?
3. Does your inability to control the future cause you added frustration or something else? What would the “something else” be that you’d hope to experience the next time you’re faced with the prospect of an unwanted future?
4. Can you think of a time when you were hurt by wickedness? How was your life impacted? Have you put what happened behind you, or are you still dealing with it? Is there anything more you can do to put the injustice behind you for good?
5. What will it take for you to “stop trying to control what you can’t control”?
6. What first steps can you take that will help you respond in healthier ways when life is out of your control?
7. What part will the Lord play in this worthy effort?