

## Life before death: Authority

Ecclesiastes 8:1-9

We are designed to live under authority.  
*Ecclesiastes 8:1*

Wisdom lightens the burden of authority.  
*Ecclesiastes 8:1-6; Exodus 34:29-30; Acts 6:15*

Wisdom brings to light the character of submission.  
*Ecclesiastes 8:2-6; Romans 13:1-5*

Wisdom puts authority and submission in perspective.  
*Ecclesiastes 8:7-9; Isaiah 53:7; Philippians 2:6-8*

## Considerations for the week

**Authority.** Describe several types of authority in our society.

**Governments.** Read Romans 13:1-7. From where does governmental authority come? Explain why that is important and give an example of how it works.

**Parents.** Read Ephesians 6:1-3. From where does parental authority come? Explain why that is important and give an example of how it works.

**Conflicting authorities.** How are we to determine our course of action when various authorities conflict?

**Authority & us.** How do we relate to authority on a day-to-day basis? Examine whether our dealings match the directives in verses 2-4. Consider to what extent (if any) there may be differences of application of these directives in a democracy rather than under a monarch.

**Authority & me.** Consider what temptations you face in your role as an authority in your home, work, church, civic group, social circle. How can you overcome them? See verses 7-9.

**Following.** How are you encouraging those whose authority you follow? Choose now to be a good follower this week.

*Please use these considerations for personal reflection, small group discussions, and with friends and family.*



**A man's wisdom makes his face shine,  
and the hardness of his face is changed.**

– Ecclesiastes 8:1b, ESV

Scripture read today  
during worship:

Matthew 6:19-21

## Prayer today

Members will be praying for us during the service today and also during the week. Please email us at [prayer@rtbchurch.org](mailto:prayer@rtbchurch.org) to let us know how we may pray for you.

**Rice Temple Baptist Church**

## Today's order of service

Prelude, *I Need Thee Every Hour*

Call to worship

Hymn 25, *Immortal, Invisible*

Hymn, *Ancient Words*

Hymn 275, *How Firm a Foundation*

Offertory

Reading and prayer

Hymn, *How Firm a Foundation*

Message

Observance of the Lord's Supper

Hymn of response 568, *God of the Ages*

Benediction

Postlude, *Praise Him ! Praise Him !*

## Weekly events

Today after benediction, Cookies & Coffee, in parlor

Young adults fellowship, Monday at 6:45pm. Dinner and discussion for those in college or starting careers.

Mom's Day Out, Tuesday and Friday, 9am – 2pm  
pre-registration required

Wednesday

Kids' Music Class, 5-6 pm

Dinner, 5:30-6:30 pm. Menu: Chicken with lemon  
sauce, tater tots, veggies, salad, bread, dessert

Prayer, 6:30 pm in the prayer room

BLAST! Children's Bible study and fun, 6:00 pm

Ladies' international Bible class (Zoom), 6:45 pm

Sermon discussion on Zoom, 7 pm

Choir rehearsal, 7:45 pm

Joy Program, Thursday, 9am-noon, conversational  
English classes, Bible study, crafts, and handbells

Endurance men's Bible study, Thursday at 6pm  
Focus: college-aged / young adult men

Young internationals Bible study, Saturday at 7 pm

Men's Bible study, every-other Saturday at 8 am.  
Meets this week, January 10

Sunday morning

Adult Bible study, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:45 am

Children's Church at sermon time

**The church office has information on events.**

Phone: 713.559.6875 Email: [office@rtbchurch.org](mailto:office@rtbchurch.org)

The office is open Tuesday - Friday, 9am-3pm

We will observe the **Lord's Supper** today.  
The bread served will be gluten-free.

**Church Conference** There will be a regular church conference held in person at the church on Sunday, January 11, 2025, 12:45 pm. Please contact the church office for information.

rtbc  
online giving



**Templegram** Our weekly newsletter is provided to us by email, usually on Tuesday. If you'd like to receive it, please email us at [office@rtbchurch.org](mailto:office@rtbchurch.org).

Please be advised that our services are livestreamed to the internet. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.