

## 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.



**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).