

Solomon continues to describe limitation of authority
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[16 : 28] And hence in chapter 9 verses 7 and 9 Solomon tells us Go, eat your food with gladness And drink your wine with a joyful heart For God has already approved what you do Always be clothed in white And always anoint your head with oil Enjoy life with your wife whom you love All the days of this meaningless life That God has given to you under the sun All your meaningless days For this is your lot in life And in your tourism labor under the sun Although authority seems meaningless We cannot live without it And hence we must fear it And hence Solomon teaches us Do not deliberately seek power But do not go against authority either Because people themselves cannot solve the problem

That is authority And this is one of the reasons why Solomon believes that authority is meaningless Solomon And although I don't think What Solomon thought was wrong It is very pessimistic However the more important thing today is to see how Christ Jesus Christ himself viewed authority Solomon had analyzed this concept of authority But could not come up with a solution And hence just accepted the reality And continued on living Solomon However the way that Christ viewed this Was very different It was a lot

It was in a much more positive light Christ was once faced with a particular situation Where the Pharisees who were trying to attack him Gave him a difficult question 22 In Matthew 22 The Pharisees asked Christ As a Jew Should they or should they not be paying taxes to Caesar Behind this question Lay the issue of how to deal with authority Jewish people by religion are ruled by God And they were heavily opposed to Roman rule And authority

However in those days The country was conquered by the Romans And hence the Romans did have the authority To govern them physically And hence the Jewish people in those days Were very conflicted about this issue of authority And in this situation If Christ tells them not to pay Then the Romans would definitely take actions Against the Jews to reclaim those taxes However if Christ says to pay the taxes Then many a Jew would lose the Jewish faith Due to their submission to a different authority So how does Christ deal with this difficult situation 22 20 22

So in Matthew 22:20-22 Christ replies to the Pharisees with the following: And he asked them, Whose image is this, and whose inscription? And Caesar's. They replied, Then he said to them, So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. When they heard this, they were amazed and left him and went away.

Christ did not belittle the value of the authority of worldly

leaders. Regardless of whether or not they know themselves, the power of all worldly leaders ultimately was granted to them from Christ from God.

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[24 : 46]

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I believe, however, that this, given most of us are quite humble within this service, this isn't too much of a big issue for us.

Maybe instead of over-appreciating, we actually under-appreciate our own authority, and in fact neglect it.

For example, we may have the title of leaders, however, we have not understood the seriousness and authority and duty associated with this term.

For example, we may not have cared for our members in our civil groups enough in their lives and their spiritual growth.

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We may undertake our duties a little bit too casually. For example, or another example, the praise and worship team who have the authority to stand before us and lead us in worshipping God.

However, could we be perhaps a little bit ignorant of the gloriousness of this authority?

Perhaps we have not completely undertaken our responsibilities, we have not practiced hard enough or rehearsed well enough to praise God.

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