The Vanity of Political Hope
Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3; 5:8-9

Introduction
Real joy, real meaning in life can only be found in a relationship with our Creator.
Today, we are going to look at three problems in our world, and Scripture’s answer to them.

I. There is unrighteousness in the halls of justice. 3:16-17
The word wickedness means a bending or twisting of the truth.
Does it bother you to see corruption and injustice in government and in the courts?
Remember that there is a higher court than the Supreme Court.
“God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked.” Verse 17
“He will judge the world in righteousness and the people’s in his truth.” Psalm 96:13

II. Man, like the animals, dies. 3:18-22
Life is short and it isn’t always fair.
Why is it that a wicked man might live to be 100 and a child may die in infancy?
“God tests men so they may see that they are like the animals.” Verse 18
For the believer, life is short, but there’s a new world coming.
For the unbeliever, we really are like the animals.
How depressing is that?
Job declared, “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh, I will see God; I myself will see him with
my own eyes – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me.” Job 19:25-27

III. The oppressed have no comforter. 4:1-3; 5:8-9
The Bible commands us to look out for those who are most vulnerable in our society – the
widow, the orphan and the alien.
“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.”
Proverbs 31:8
“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews 13:3

Did you know that 74% of the world’s population does not have religious freedom?

Open Door reports that in just the last year:

- 245 million Christians experience high levels of persecution.
- 4305 Christians have been killed for their faith.
- 1847 churches and Christian buildings have been attacked.
- 3150 Christians have been arrested and detained without trial.

Global Slavery Index estimates 40 million people are enslaved in our world today.

- Forced Labor – 16 million
- Forced Marriage – 15 million
- Forced Sexual Slavery – 5 million
- Forced Labor by state authorities – 4 million

When the oppressed look to government for relief, what they find is no comforter there.

The Christ follower looks at life differently. Every person has dignity and worth, because we are made in the image of God.

We will not be silent when it comes to injustice and oppression.

Conclusion

Government is not the answer. Jesus Christ is.

I want to commend all of you who work in and support ministries that care for the least of these in our world.

The Dwelling Place       Urban Homworks
Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge       Feed My Starving Children
Missionary Evangelism to Corrections       Children’s Shelter of Cebu
Child Sponsorship through Compassion, World Vision and Global Fingerprints
Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child       Amborella’s House