

KEC ORDER OF SERVICE/SERMON OUTLINE 31st July 2022 (KEC Hybrid Service)

The livestream can be accessed at

https://www.facebook.com/bemkec/live_videos/ or <https://youtube.com/bemkec/live>

Welcome to church! Here at BEM KEC, these are our core convictions:

- To be centred on the gospel
 - To be driven by God's Word
 - To be focused on growing disciples
 - To be a community of truth and love
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1. CALL TO WORSHIP – Revelation 19:1-10

2. Worship in SONG (with Bobby Langat):

SONG 1: Crown him with many crowns

SONG 2: Majesty, Worship his Majesty

SONG 3: Yet not I, but through Christ in me

3. Prayers

4. Bible reading: Ecclesiastes 8:1-17

8 Who is like the wise?

Who knows the explanation of things?

A person's wisdom brightens their face
and changes its hard appearance.

² 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 person may be weighed down by misery.

⁷ Since no one knows the future,
who can tell someone else what is to come?

⁸ As no one has power over the wind to contain it,
so^[a] no one has power over the time of their death.

As no one is discharged in time of war,
so wickedness will not release those who practice it.

⁹ All 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^[b] hurt. ¹⁰ Then too, I saw the wicked buried—those who used to come and go from the holy place and receive praise^[c] in the city where they did this. This too is meaningless.

¹¹ When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people's hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong. ¹² Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who fear God, who are reverent before him. 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: the righteous who get what the wicked deserve, and the wicked who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless. ¹⁵ So I commend the enjoyment of life, because there is nothing better for a person under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany them in their toil all the days of the life God has given them under the sun.

¹⁶ When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe the labor that is done on earth—people getting no sleep day or night—¹⁷ then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it.

- a. [Ecclesiastes 8:8](#) Or *over the human spirit to retain it, / and so*
- b. [Ecclesiastes 8:9](#) Or *to their*
- c. [Ecclesiastes 8:10](#) Some Hebrew manuscripts and Septuagint (Aquila); most Hebrew manuscripts *and are forgotten*

SERMON OUTLINE: Living wisely in an unjust world (Ecclesiastes 8:1-17)

Last week, introduced to wisdom!

How can we live wisely in a world filled with imperfect, even unjust authorities?

The conundrum we face

- ◆ No justice!

What we believe vs what we see

- ◆ No control!

When the wrong people are in charge, injustice so often results

- harm (v.9)
- unjustified approval (v.10)
- social decay (v.11)

The course wisdom recommends

“Obey the king’s command...”(v.2)
Why?

Romans 13:1

Authority in itself is not a bad thing

But wait a minute...

Wisdom means playing the long game sometimes

Be pragmatic

OT examples: Esther and Obadiah

A *theological* pragmatism, not a worldly one

Why is this the course wisdom recommends? (v.6, cf. chapter 3)

Though the wise know there is a time for everything...

≠ fortune-telling

▶ will know when it is time to stand up

The consolation wisdom offers

Protect from harm, relatively speaking (v.5)

Reminds us unjust authorities are more limited than they think (v.7-8)

Cannot escape God (v.11-13)

So relax!

The comprehension the gospel brings

If we find the existence of injustice incomprehensible, that strengthens our belief in God

The gospel shows us God is not ignorant

The authority of Jesus (John 10:17-19)

Rest easy as a child of God

Response Song: Ancient of Days

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Connect cards**
- **Giving**
- Our **AGM** will take place **today, 31st July, 10.30am-12.30pm**, in **Conference Room 1** (Overflow Room also available in the Seminar Room). It will be held in hybrid format. If you wish to follow on Zoom, please get the Zoom link either from your HFG leader or from Julie Kong, our church administrator. Please take note: You must name yourself with your full name (eg. "Julie Kong", not just "Julie"), and you must switch on your video long enough for your identity to be verified, to join the proceedings on Zoom.
- The **Klang Valley Bible Conference**, on the theme "**Dying Well**", starts from **tomorrow until Wednesday night, 8.15pm every evening**. Dr. Peter Jensen will be speaking. Register at: <https://bit.ly/KVBC2022>
- **KVBC NextGen** is also taking place online from **August 31-September 3!** This training conference, aimed at 18-35 year olds, equips the next generation of Christian leaders to handle and teach the Word well. Register at <https://nextgen.kvbctrust.org>. The DEADLINE for registrations is **today, 31st July**.
- **Impact UK Malaysia** is a conference for Malaysians going to study in the UK, or who have just recently graduated from the UK. It aims to encourage Malaysian Christian students to live wholeheartedly for Jesus and to network with others at a similar stage. This year, Pastor Brian is giving the main talks at their online conference on **Saturday, August 6th**. Find out more and register at <https://new.equip.org.my/impact-uk/>
- **Teh C Talks Special Edition: "Does God Control Everything?" Date: August 6. Time: 8.00pm. Venue: ROTM (Canaan Square)**

To some people, God is a being who dictates every event that happens. To others, God is an absent Creator that left the world entirely into the hands of humans. Is God a micromanaging ruler? Or is he an apathetic deity? Do our day to day choices matter if God has already decided everything? This time around, instead of a 15-minute talk in the beginning, join us for a roundtable discussion on God's sovereignty. There will be facilitators that lead discussion questions at each table throughout the evening and every participant is encouraged to share their comments or thoughts. We welcome anyone from any spiritual background. Free drinks offered! **Sign-up here:** www.tinyurl.com/TCTAUG22
- **Tadika Rajawali** is looking for an **admin clerk**. At minimum, an SPM qualification is required, as well as proficiency in Microsoft Office and knowledge of English, Bahasa Malaysia, and Mandarin. You may obtain the full job description and criteria from either our church administrator Julie Kong, or from the Tadika Rajawali office. (Contact Number: 082-550-251)
- Our **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting** will not be taking place this week, to allow as many people as possible to follow the Klang Valley Bible Conference.

- The time of our **Mandarin service** will be changed to **Sunday, 4.30-6pm**, starting **August 7th**.
- **Refreshments are coming back in August!** We will be serving simple refreshments again in the courtyard after service, starting next Sunday. Do stay back for fellowship, and discuss coffee questions over actual coffee!

<p>Home Fellowship Groups Most groups have started meeting! (Usually Thursday/Friday evenings). If you would like to register your interest in joining a Home Fellowship Group, please do so at https://bemkec.my/home-fellowship-groups/</p>	<p>English Youth Ministry Our youth group meets every Saturday evening at church (Conference Room 1), 8-9.30pm. If you're interested to come, do let us know at https://bemkec.my/english-youth-ministry/</p>
<p>Sunday School Sunday school lessons will be held in the classrooms located in the Apartment Block as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Group 1 (Children ages 3-4): Conference Room 1, 1st Floor. 1.2 Group 2 (Children ages 5-6): Room K1, Ground Floor. 1.3 Group 3 (Children ages 7-9 i.e. Primary 1 to 3): Room 2B, Ground Floor. 1.4 Group 4 (Children ages 10-12 i.e. Primary 4 to 6): Conference Room 2, 1st Floor. <p>If your child is below 3 years old, please do not send them to Sunday School but utilise the creche instead.</p> <p><u>Sunday School S.O.Ps</u> If you would like to see the current Sunday School S.O.Ps in full, please refer to our Sunday School notice board.</p>	

BENEDICTION

¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

- 2 Peter 3:18

COFFEE QUESTIONS

- Do you find submitting to imperfect authorities easy or difficult? Why?
- Think about a past situation where you chose to speak up or stay quiet; where you thought it was fitting to do one or the other. In hindsight, was it wise to act in that way?
- How might you take the course of wisdom and be “theologically pragmatic” in your situation today?
- Let’s continue to pray for increased wisdom and trust in God!