



“Your Life & Times”
Ecclesiastes 3:1-3
Sunday, May 28, 2017

Our culture is obsessed with money, but there is an even greater obsession. It involves time! Busyness! One of my professors in seminary divided this beautiful poetry into segments. “Solomon,” he says, “divided his Holy Spirit moved remarks into three components of human experience: the physical (vs. 1-3), the emotional (vs. 4-5), and the spiritual (vs. 6-8). Then he gives the application of the previous 8 verses in vs. 9-13.

I. A time to be born and a time to die

Solomon begins his remarks with the beginning at the end connected.

II. A time to plant and a time to uproot

In the New Testament, this is stated as reaping and sowing.

If you plant honesty, you will reap _____.
 If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.
 If you plant humility, you will reap _____.
 If you plant perseverance, you will reap _____.
 If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective.
 If you plant hard work, you will reap _____.
 If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.
 If you plant faith in Christ, you will reap _____.
 (S. Dlamini)

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap – or will have to uproot – later.

III. A time to kill and a time to heal

There can be no healing without killing. I realize that is quite a statement, but if there are no bruises, no wounds, why would there be a need of healing? Sometimes ideas that do not work have to be killed off.

IV. A time to break down and a time to build up

Where do you find yourself in this living conundrum?

Someone wrote: *“May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.”*

The happiest of people don’t necessarily have the best of everything; they just _____ of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a _____; you can’t go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

Let’s Talk It Over

Pastor will be preaching on Ecclesiastes which deals with Solomon wrestling with the meaning of life in a fallen, and therefore frequently confusing and frustrating world -- just like the one we live in.

Eccl 3:1-8 - Your Life & Times

- Q1.** How would you express the overall message of 3:1-8 as it relates to how we live our lives in 2017?
- Q2.** What is implied in 3:1-8 about mankind’s responsibility? about God’s sovereignty?
- Q3.** How might 3:21 relate to the controversies in our society today over the sanctity of life?
- Q4.** How does the truth of 3:2b compare with what you read in Jer 4:3 (compare Mt 13:1-9, 18-23 parable of four soils) and Christ’s story in Mt 13:24-30 (parable of the wheat and weeds)?
- Q5.** How does 3:3b compare with what you read in 1 Cor 3:10-15 and Gal 2:18? ♥ What are you building? What are you tearing down?
- Q6.** What do you learn about 3:4 from Jn 11:35? from Lk 19:41-44? from Rom 12:15?
- Q7.** How might 3:5b relate to appropriate standards for sexual behavior before marriage? after marriage?
- Q8.** Reflect back over 3:1-8. What would be the distinctive characteristics and behaviors in the life of someone who truly believed that everything in our life has its own proper time and season? ♥ Does your life possess those characteristics and behaviors?
- Q9.** How would you compare the teaching of 3:1-8 with the statement in Col 4:5 and Eph 2:10? How can we “make the most of every opportunity”?
- Q10.** ♥ What time is it for you? At what times (3:1-8) do you doubt God is in control? ♥ Do you believe that every hour and moment of your life belongs to an assigned “time” or “season” for some particular God-ordained purpose? [Explain your reasoning.]

This Week in the Word

Before each day's study be sure to talk to the Author; ask Him to give you insight to His Word. Read the passage from several different versions. Pray Psalm 119:18 & 27 as you begin daily.

Eccl 3:4-17 ~ So...What Time Is It?

Day 1: Read Eccl 3:4-17.

Q1. The question asked in 3:9 is quite similar to 2:22. What further perspectives would you add regarding the best way to answer this question?

Q2. What is the “burden” (NLT) / “business” (ESV) / “task” (NKJV) mentioned in 3:10? Why do you think the New Living Translators choose “burden”?

Day 2: Read Eccl 3:4-17 in a different translation.

Q3. How would you explain the teaching in 3:10-11 about what God has done? What does v11 teach about both human capacity and human limitation?

Q4. What does it mean to “set eternity” in our hearts (v11)?

Day 3: Read Eccl 3:4-17 in a different translation.

Q5. How do you see God's grace expressed in v12-13?

Q6. How does v12-13 build upon, amplify or reinforce the earlier message of 2:24-25? Is God encouraging hedonism?

Day 4: Read Eccl 3:4-17 in a different translation.

Q7. What has God done that will last forever (v14)?

Q8. Why is it important to fear God (v14)?

Day 5: Read Eccl 3:4-17 in a different translation.

Q9. How does v16-17 compare / contrast with what Jesus says in Mt 25:28-30?

Q10. How does v16-17 demonstrate the faith of Solomon?

Sonrise offers a variety of small groups that meet during the week in various members homes. We encourage you to join others in a discussion of this morning's message. See Pastor Phil at the south exit.