

# A Time for Everything

## Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

### Introduction

Go for it, Daddy's here!

### I. The Tyranny of Time!

3:1-8

A. It's \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_

B. There are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Our Response to the Tyranny of Time... God's Design!

3:9-13

A. God makes all things beautiful!

B. God wants your life to have eternal significance!

C. You don't get to know what God has planned!

### Conclusion

TRUST... LIVE... ENJOY

# **A Time for Everything**

## **Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**

## The Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

Are you a planner by nature or do you like to just see what happens in a given situation. The world might boil down to people who see life in either of these two extremes; those who like to plan things out and those who like to be spontaneous and see how it all turns out. Solomon, in Ecclesiastes 3, seems to be giving us both of those perspectives. He is telling us that God has a plan in all the seasons of life; that we are called to trust that plan and live in the moment. Are you OK with that? Are you willing to turn your attention from worrying about the future to living in the present? Let's go back to Ecclesiastes 3 and re-visit this entry in Solomon's journal.

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**Monday** - Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. What is Solomon saying in verse 1? What does he mean by time/season? Do you think Solomon is making moral judgments about these seasons or is he just stating what is? Can you think of times in your life when you've lived through one of these seasons? Can you identify with one of these seasons right now? How did that affect your view of life... of God? (Be willing to be honest) Solomon is being honest about the different seasons of life we will experience and wants us to remember that God allows these seasons for a purpose. That's something we will learn later.

**Tuesday** - Read Ecclesiastes 3:9-10. What is Solomon really asking in verse 9? What is at the bottom of his inquiry (think about what we learned in Ecclesiastes 1:2-3 when we talked about *hevel* and *yitron*. What is the "business" that Solomon is referring to in verse 10? Is Solomon making the point that God is the author of this confusion? Solomon wants to identify the advantage (*yitron*) in giving life these boundaries as he does in 3:1-8. (In other words, what are we supposed to do with this information?) Can you think of what God is trying to help us understand here?

**Wednesday** - Read Ecclesiastes 3:11. How does this verse answer the question Solomon is posing in verses 9-10? What do you think Solomon is saying when he summarized God as the one who makes all things beautiful IN IT'S TIME? (Hint... it has everything to do with verses 1-8.) What is meant in the later part of the verse when Solomon says that God is limiting our ability to "find out" what He's up to? If God doesn't allow us to know how all things will work out in the future, then what does He want us to do now? Solomon wants you and me to take all the energy we are tempted to invest in figuring out the future and apply it to the present! Are you willing to trust God with things you don't understand and can't control the outcome of? Take this to Him in prayer!

**Thursday** - Read Ecclesiastes 3:12-13. As Solomon discovers that he can't control the future, what does he realize about the present? What are we being called to do now? What do you think he means, "do good as long as you are living"? Of the many reasons why not knowing the future is a good thing for us, perhaps one of the more pressing reasons is that we would miss the present. God wants us to enjoy the present, to eat and drink and take pleasure in the few moments we have! What/who can you "enjoy" today and what good can you accomplish while it is still called today?

**Friday** - Read Psalm 90. What is Moses' over-arching point here? How can you number your days and what does that have to do with gaining a heart of wisdom? What is Moses saying in verse 15 about the context of our gladness? What we see over and over in the Scriptures is the invitation to joy and blessing "no matter what". The bottom line to this Psalm and all of Ecclesiastes is that God wants you to trust His plan for the future and enjoy what you have. Do that and watch the blessing come!