

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Introduction: Have you ever said “There just isn’t enough time in the day?” Over the past couple of weeks we have seen that Solomon had a preoccupation with time. And let’s face it, we as human beings seem pretty occupied by it as well. Much like materialism we are consumed by how little we have instead of focusing on what we do have. Do you realize that each day God gives us 86,400 seconds? That is what we have, the question is what are we doing with it?

Breakdown of the Text:

V. 1: The phrase “to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose” means that change is inevitable. We can fuss, fight, and try to resist it but change is going to take place in life. We might as well come to terms with that truth, accept it, and learn how to deal with it. Solomon with the list of 28 things is saying everything in life and the world goes in circles, and so while things change they also stay the same because they come full circle and end where they started.

V. 9: The burning question in Solomon’s mind here, “What on earth has lasting value?” He is probably still referencing the list of 28. For every positive thing that happens there is a negative thing that counteracts it. We feel like that sometimes don’t we? Sometimes I feel like it is one step forward and three steps back. In Solomon’s list there are 14 positive things and 14 negative things. Solomon’s point here is that at the end of life we take out of here exactly what we brought in, nothing! Job said the same thing in Job 1:21, “I was born naked and I will die naked, the Lord has given me and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.” Job and Solomon both agreed that life is not about man, it is about God. The end of Colossians 1:16 says, “all things were created by Him and for Him.”

V. 11: The first phrase says “He hath made everything beautiful in His time.” Do you feel like your life is always beautiful? Yet the Bible speaks of it just that way not only here but also in Romans 8:28 when it says, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” It may not seem like it at the time, but God is behind the scenes working His perfect plan out. Notice Romans 8:28 doesn’t say that all things are good, but rather that all things work for good. In all things that happen God is trying

to draw the world into a relationship with Him or into a deeper relationship with Him for those who have already trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Would you agree that a little pain here in this life that results in an eternity of happiness is worth it? That is what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:17, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory." Also in Ecclesiastes 3:11 it says that "He hath set the world in their heart." The word "world" here is also translated as "eternity." In other words God has put eternity in our hearts. He has put a deep longing for something more lasting than this life. You can go ask almost anyone about life and they will tell you that they want to be remembered long after they are gone or they want to leave something here that stands the test of time. That is how God created us. So when we strive for the temporary things of this life, we are actually going against how we were created and that is why we don't find lasting happiness and satisfaction in those things.

Vv. 12-13: God has not given us all the information about the future and that is a good thing. Psalm 118:24 says, "This is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be in it." Notice it says "this is the day." The psalmist was referencing the day he was living in. The reason God doesn't tell us everything in life is because He knew that if we knew what was going to happen tomorrow it would cause us more stress and worry, and that would rob us of the joy of today.

Vv. 14-15: Everything God has done is with eternity in mind. We can't add to what God is going to do nor can we take away from what He is going to do. This speaks of God's sovereignty over everything. He has sovereignty over it because He is the Creator and everything else is created. God's work is done to bring us into awe of Him, everything around us speaks to us that there is a God as Paul says in Romans 1:19-20, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Even the seasons teach us about life. Think of how the winter to spring illustrates salvation. In winter everything is brown and dead even though it is still living. A person that is unsaved is already dead even though it is living. However, winter gives way to spring and suddenly what was once brown is now turning green and flowers are blooming, it symbolizes that new life has come into it. For a person who places their faith in

Christ they have passed from death into life and they are going to produce fruit in their lives to show that they are alive.

Application:

- ✠ **Life is Short.** Life is a lot like being a parent. When a newborn comes you think how cute and cuddly and you think they have their whole life ahead of them. You want them to walk and talk and then soon they won't be quiet and they are running everywhere. Next thing you know they are going to school then they are driving, next comes graduation, and before you know it they are out of your life. Life is a lot like that, I can remember being young and thinking 40 is really old and now all of the sudden I am hot on its heels. You spend a lot of time working and then the company forces you into retirement, and soon enough you have stepped into eternity. We must realize that we don't have as much time as we think we do and it goes by in the blink of an eye. James 4:14 says, "Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."
- ✠ **It's not about quantity, it's about quality.** Psalm 90:10 says, "The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." The psalmist says that our allotted time is 70 years and if we are lucky 80. It shows us that our life is infinite. It has a definite beginning and a definite end. We need to make the most of the life God gives us, and the only thing that equates to value is something that lasts for eternity. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." Notice if what we have done in life lasts we have a reward, but if it doesn't, it basically means we have wasted our life. Is what you are doing with your life going to stand the test of eternity?