

Ecclesiastes 3 Live like you were dying!
True North, Part 3

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.

A) Just like there are seasons in nature – Fall, Winter, Spring, and the Summer

B) There are seasons in life that we go through too. –

C) Seasons of growing up- **Decision years – 16-25** trying to figure out – what are you going to be doing **CAREER**

D) **Who you are going to Marry?**

1) Where will you live – where will you go to Church
How will you serve?

Seasons of young love!

A) Dating engagement – Newlywed

B) Followed by the **season of Young kids**

1) Diapers – Pulling hair out – exhausted – struggling for time together.

C) Kids get older – **Taxi season Starts** – Life on the freeway games practices – recitals – school

NY times – Mothers spend an average of 2hrs a day in their cars

Kids grow up go away to college – Season empty nest
So there are seasons in life – but there is a purpose for each one of those seasons.

A) So important in the midst of the season to keep in mind the big picture.

B) **These seasons that we go through are all a part of the plan of God in our lives – there is a Purpose.**

A) Always important to remember – these important facts in each season.

C) **#1 God wants to become more real to you in that season.** Things that you will learn at that time in your life – not learn at any other.

D) He wants to make himself real – Grace is sufficient – His power – His person -

#2 God wants to do a work in you – the season is part of a molding process – make you more like Jesus

A) There is cutting – pruning – failures – all a part of that season.

#3 God wants to do a work through you.

A) Each season is a Time of Impact – I am here in each season to make an impact for Jesus in the Lives of those in our Sphere of influence.

B) My family, my Career, my neighborhood, my Church.

C) Each one of those seasons has purpose that is bigger than me

1) The Key is to no lose sight of the big picture by getting sucked into the busyness of the season.

Now Solomon is going to narrow down the seasons into 14 different categories – that our introduced by the word TIME.

A) The word TIME is used 28 times in these first eight verses.

B) Each verse begins with an opening statement and is followed by an explanation statement.

1) The explanation statement gives clarity to what Solomon is referring to here.

**V. 2 A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;**

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A) Birth and death – two things we have little to do with –

B) When we are born and when we die are out of our hands.

C) But I think what he says next gives us insight that he is thinking about more than just physical birth and death.

A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;

See there are seasons of birth in a Business, a ministry, a family –

A) Birth equals newness – new things – new venture of faith.

B) **Time to plant** – try something new – but there is also a time to pluck up

1) Time to replace – time to declare something dead That season was over.

C) That happens in life – in Business, in a family and in Ministry.

1) Birth and death are a part of the Growth Process

D) Solomon continues in this vein with his next thought –

**V.3 A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;**

A) Chuck Swindol – “Life seems strangely fixed between the battlefield and the first aid station.”

B) A time to kill – he is not talking about murder here – he is talking about – things –

1) Sometimes – **You need to put something to death – it is un-repairable –**

C) Other times – you can heal – been said – Time is a horrible Beautician but a wonderful healer.

1) Time heals wounds

But there is a time to Kill – a time to break down a time to say – this needs to end.

A) And there is a time to build up again. – Time to restore

B) In between the two SEASONS – can be a time of pain and turmoil – season of labor

1) Allowing the death to set in – emotionally those are hard times – feel empty and numb.

C) Time brings healing – restoration

V.4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A) A time to weep and mourn and a time to dance and laugh

B) You really don't want to confuse the two!

1) Don't make light of someone's trial –

C) Your trial is always the biggest trial!

Time to laugh and dance –

A) You don't want to be bummed out at someone's wedding celebration – you are still single

B) And at the same time you don't want to be telling jokes at a funeral

C) There is a time to weep – and it is not a sign of weakness – it is a sign of being human.

D) God made us with tear ducts! He made us emotional people.

1) Jesus was the strongest man ever – and he wept!

E) At the same time Jesus knew how to have a good time – Glutton and a winebibber

1) Wasn't that Jesus was a party animal – He had a good time – invited back-

2) The Pharisees didn't get invited and it drove them crazy.

V.5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;

A) There is a time to stand your ground – speak the truth in love –

B) There is a time for REBUKE – there is a time for discipline.

1) An OT form of DIVINE discipline was stoning.

C) There is a time for Discipline – time to say this will not be allowed in this house – this family.

1) You want to do that you can go somewhere else!

D) But there is also a time to embrace- time to welcome home the prodigal when there is repentance.

1) Time to embrace and forgive – time to restore and to forget -

6 A time to gain, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to throw away;

A) There is a time for collecting – time to gather stuff accumulate –

B) But you can take it too far – also a time to lose – a time to throw away.

1) Still holding on to those pants in the closet – hoping you are going to get back into them

C) Give them to someone who can use them.

D) Holding onto things never use – let it go!

7 A time to tear, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A) They would tear their garments in times of grief – or as a sign of being spiritually appalled.

B) Times when bold statements are necessary – but there is also a time to mend.

1) Time to speak words of encouragement, words of healing.

C) There is a time to speak and a time to remain silent – more marriages would survive if ppl learned the difference – time to speak time to be silent.

D) **Two ears one mouth for a reason!**

1) Some ppl would do themselves a lot of good if they just kept their mouth shut!

V.8 A time to love, and a time to hate;

A time of war, and a time of peace.

A) Love we get and like – but what about hate – what is that about.

B) Hate injustice – hate evil – hate abuse!

C) Sometimes the most loving thing we can do is to make war!

Love that masquerades as tolerance is not love at all!

A) Those who in the name of love – turn a blind eye to evil and injustice are not loving – cowards

B) When Tyranny runs roughshod over the rights of mankind – war is necessary.

C) There is a time to make war! – When there is a bully – abusing people and threatening you

1) There is a time to step in and say – we are not going to let you do that anymore.

D) There is a time for war – but there is also a time for peace.

1) Learn to pick your battles – some things that are not worth fighting for!

Well after stating these 14 categories of contrast as it relates to time – Solomon concludes his thought by asking an Important question – **what is the Profit...?**

V.9 What profit has the worker from that in which he labors?

A) To amplify the question think of it this way – there are 84,600 seconds in a day.

B) What is left at the end of it? What is the profit? – What is the Fruit? – That is the issue.

C) When it all said and done what will your life count for? – That is the key –

1) If life is focused – under the sun – just earthly – nothing to show for it.

D) If it is focused above the sun – Eternity – you will have a lot to show for it!

E) The Profit and the Purpose is all about our Perception – view of life – view of those 86,400 secs

Solomon wraps up this section by giving us three Important observations to consider about God.

A) What God makes, what God gives, what God does.

B) What God makes - 10 **“I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”**

God makes everything beautiful in His time!

A) That right there is a glorious truth – that is such an important never to be forgotten statement

B) When God gives the perspective that we need, our times become sensible and meaningful.

C) **Life is like a tapestry** –on the one side – all these random –threads and colors – colliding

1) Turn it over – beautiful picture – image

D) Often **from our perspective** when we are going thru things – seems – not make any sense –

1) Random – hard – pointless

E) But then there comes a moment – **2 months later 2 yrs – 10 yrs – the Tapestry gets turned over**

1) Now we see that the Lord was doing!

Romans 8:28 is true

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Key phrase in that verse is work together – the verse doesn't say all things are good – Solomon doesn't say everything is beautiful

But when God steps into the picture – beauty emerges!

Doesn't matter what you are going thru right now – in God's time Beauty will emerge!

A) He makes everything beautiful in his time: Your loss, your hospital experience, your failures, your brokenness, your battles,

B) Your illness, your lost romance,

Another thing that God makes is –He makes everybody curious

A) that is what is meant by the statement - **He has put eternity in their hearts**

B) There is this curiosity in the heart of man – about the future – about eternal things – about what is next

1) God has given us an eternal itch for tomorrow.

C) He makes us curious about what is coming around the corner.

C) God placed that there – because he wants us to live with eternity in view.

D) God **has given man the ability** to see beyond the present – he has not given that ability to any other creation.

God didn't place that into the animal – the Ox can plow a field day after day – never thinking about – why am I doing this – same tomorrow

A) Not the case with man – built into us a desire to think and wonder about eternal things

B) Many people try to suppress that – they don't want to think about tomorrow – what is next – what is around the corner –

C) But as believers - it is that hope of the future that often keeps us going in the present.

That is what God makes – now let's consider what God gives – 4 gifts mentioned here.

12 I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, 13 and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor — it is the gift of God.

First God gives us the ability to rejoice and enjoy life.

A) There is nothing better for us than to rejoice.

B) I read today about a man who gave his business to God one morning after hassle over it for years

C) That night his plant caught on fire and burned down. –

1) He arrived on the scene – the building in flames

D) Stood there with a smile on his face – friend said – why are you so calm and smiling

1) Your business is going up in smoke –

“This morning I gave this company to God – if He wants to burn it up that is His Business.”

A) I wonder – how many things God would burn up if we gave them to Him.

B) God gives us the ability to rejoice even in tough times.

Peace that surpasses understanding that will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

Second V.12 God gives us the ability to do good in our lifetime.

A) God has given you the ability to make an impact – use it!

Yeah, gotta start

Looking at the hand of the time we’ve been given here

This is all we got and we gotta start thinkin’ it

Every second counts on a clock that’s tickin’

Gotta live like we’re dying

We only got 86 400 seconds in a day

To turn it all around or throw it all away

We gotta tell ‘em that we love ‘em while we got the

chance to say, Gotta live like we’re dying

Third: God gives us an appetite to eat and to drink!

A) That is a gift- eat and to enjoy food.

B) Take that for granted – but it is a gift

4th God gives us the ability to see good in our labor!

A) I call it perspective – Under the sun perspective says I earn what I get- above the sun labor says –

B) You get what you will never deserve and can never earn- forgiveness eternal life, grace, hope, love.

So that is what God gives and what God makes – lets now consider what God does.

V.14 I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever.

Nothing can be added to it,

And nothing taken from it.

God does it, that men should fear before Him.

There first two things that Solomon mentions here emphasize the quality of God’s actions they are permanent and they are complete.

A) God is thorough-

B) The last two things mentioned emphasize the activity itself

1) God performs things that cultivate respect for him

C) First what he does is permanent – it has staying power – it remains forever

1) God does nothing with shallowness – nothing that is superficial – His work is solid – has substance

The work of salvation – IT IS FINISHED !

2ND His work is thorough and complete – nothing can be added to it

A) Man does a work – left undone – carpentry – labor – work they missed something – human – not God

3rd God does things that create a respect in our hearts – V.14c God does it men should fear

A) Grand Tetons – Swiss Alps – Creation – Awestruck

B) Salvation – God left heaven – awestruck

4th thing God does – He patiently repeats things until they are learned.

**15 That which is has already been,
And what is to be has already been;
And God requires an account of what is past.**

God loves you and is committed to you – Complete the work He has begun – Lesson learned –

A) Run from the obstacle – come back to it again

B) Go thru it – relying on his grace.

5th God Judges rightly

16 Moreover I saw under the sun:

**In the place of judgment,
Wickedness was there;
And in the place of righteousness,**

Iniquity was there.

17 I said in my heart, "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, For there is a time there for every purpose and for every work."

It is understanding what God makes – what God gives – what God does that separates us from the animal world.

A) The person who fails to see that – lives like an animal – no purpose – daily existence

B) Failing to realize that eternity hangs in the balance

Eccl 3:18-22

**18 I said in my heart, "Concerning the condition of the sons of men, God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals." 19 for what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. 20 All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. 21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth? 22 So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?
NKJV**