

Ecclesiastes 3

LESSON 04

Time and Season

1. Ecclesiastes 2 – Review

- a. The Bible accurately describes wrong things. Ecc: a look from a wrong perspective.
- b. Solomon rejoiced in his labour, until it was finished (it didn't last) – 2:10
- c. 2:18-19 – “I hated... because I should leave it...after me... and who knoweth”?
- d. 2:23-26 - If he obeyed his father (1Chron 28:9), his grief would've been spared

2. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 – Time and Season

- a. Times and seasons is an earth issue – 1 Thess 5:1; we ought to discern Matt 16:3
- b. Each time and season here is imposed on us; we do not control them
- c. All your work, schedules, plans cannot change what time and season it is, respect it
- d. Prov. gives wise advice about 'right' ways, Ecc. says time and chance happens (9:11)
- e. Half of the things listed here are negative, not positive – change can also be vanity
- f. If any of these things is our “meaning” under the sun, we will be disappointed

3. Ecclesiastes 3:9-15 – Man Stuck In Time

- a. “*what profit?*” – if everything changes, good turns sour, what goes up falls down
- b. “I have seen ...” – Solomon's observation/understanding of Gen 1:14, 3:17, 8:22
- c. 3:11 – Do not read Col 3:2 into this. “*every thing*” is under the sun
 - i. “*in his time*” – is the time the sons of men have to be exercised
 - ii. “*the world*” – not eternity, but all things in the world – 2Ti 4:10, Rom 1:25
 - iii. “*no man can find out*” – not that he can find it out – see Acts 17:24-30
- d. The only good (not in eternity, but the world) is to rejoice and do good in his work
- e. What God does “*it shall be for ever*” – Ps 119:89, PS 64:9, Isa 40:8, 42:9, 46:10
- f. “*requireth that which is past*” – judgment of past/not future – Deu 18:19, Ro 14:12

4. Ecclesiastes 3:16-22 – Men are Beasts

- a. “*place of judgment*” - there is on justice under the sun (Levites, David, Priests)
- b. “*God shall judge*” – why? Things change, and God made them so
- c. “*the estate of the sons of men*” – compare to Rom 8:17-24
- d. “*they are beasts*” – 2 Pet 2:12; Titus 1:12; Psa 49 – no understanding, no control
 - i. Animals seek self-preservation, self-propagation, and self-gratification
- e. All die and return to dust just as Gen 3:19 says
- f. “*who knoweth the spirit of a man that goes upward?* – no one (under the sun)
- g. “*who shall bring him to see what shall be after him*” – answer: Christ from heaven