

# Ecclesiastes: Living with Purpose

## *A Time for Everything* (Ecclesiastes 3)

### On Time (v. 1-8)

- Solomon reflects on the ever-changing aspects of life
- Human life is ruled by time
  - Always moving forward
  - Bringing both good and bad
- We are not able to fully experience eternity yet
- Consider God's words to David concerning building the Temple (2 Sam 7:5-13)
  - Compared to Solomon's experience of building the Temple (2 Chron 2:5-6)
- God has His own timing
  - Ultimately, this was about Jesus building an eternal household for God
  - Something that Solomon could not fathom

### Conclusions about Time (v. 9-14)

- Our entrapment in time is a reminder of our mortality (v.9)
- The fruit of our labor will not last (v. 10)
- But God makes everything work out for its appropriate season of life (v. 11a)
  - He is the Lord of time
  - And has made us long for a timeless reality with Him (v. 11b)
- These truths lead to the conclusion that we should learn to enjoy the life that God has given us
  - Even though this life is transitory
    - That means so is pleasure
    - And so is pain
- Only God is eternal
  - And what He does will be the only things that last
  - Which leads to reverence for God

### On Justice (v. 15-17)

- Solomon turns his attention to justice and its lack in the world
- Justice is not done in this world
  - But God will assure that it will be done to and for all in eternity

### On Death (v. 18-21)

- Solomon reflects on the mortality of all
  - Both men and beasts
- Reminder: God has not clearly revealed the idea of resurrection at this time in redemptive history
  - Yet there are hints even in Solomon's own assurance of eternal justice

### Solomon's Conclusion (v. 22)

- If life is fleeting, we should enjoy the work set before us
- Yet, Solomon's perspective is limited
  - He asks who can know what comes after
    - Questioning if there is life after death

## So What?

- Without the hope of resurrection, aspects of this life can seem empty
- But with the perspective that there is more than this life, all of this life can have meaning when our life is lived for God
- Are we living for God?

*Meditation Verse:* Ecclesiastes 3:17

*Scripture Reading Challenge:*  
Ecclesiastes 4 & Proverbs 27:5-10