

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-22 **“DOING TIME IN THE SEASONS OF LIFE”**

Last week we learned about the importance of putting God first in all our pursuits.

Because if we don't, our pursuits become meaningless, we can't fully enjoy them, we'll find ourselves empty and miserable.

We won't find true pleasure or satisfaction in anything in Gods absence.

Whether we set out to build a house, plant a garden, raise livestock, acquire wealth, or whatever it is we do, as long as we operate within the boundaries God has established, and put God first, we will find enjoyment.

READ... V1-8

Most of us are familiar with the song Turn, written by Pete Seger in 1959, later became a #1 hit in December of 1965.

The song became popular in the midst of the hippie movement when young people across America were searching for answers to the meaning of life while experimenting with drugs, alcohol, and sex.

The song was written in protest to the Vietnam war, at the conclusion of **V8** a time of peace Seger added the words “I swear its not to late”.

That generation was wanting the season of war to end, and a season of peace and joy to begin.

READ... V1 Solomon states that, *everything has a season and a purpose.*

The interesting thing about the seasons of life is, we have no control over them, when they start and when they end, whether it's a good season or whether it's a bad one, time is no respecter of persons, time has always and will always continue on with or without us, it's not subject to us.

When your young time appears to move bye so slow, things like getting your drivers license, finishing school, moving out of the house, take forever

Than when you get older time moves by to fast, your kids grow up, get married, move away, have kids, and the next thing you know your house is empty and you're wondering where did time go.

In **V1-8** Are the seasons of life for every generation, every birth ends with a death, every planted crop gets uprooted, every building built will eventually be torn down, every peace treaty will expire and give way to another war,

Those of you parents with young children are in a season of changing diapers, others of you are in the why season, others are facing the challenges of helping navigate your teenagers in making wise choices.

Everything has a season, and everything has a purpose under heaven, and you and I possess a limited knowledge of what those purposes are, but they all play a role in Gods master plan.

READ ... V9-15

God has put eternity in our hearts **V11**, even before we entered into a personal relationship with Jesus.

There was something within us all that was unsatisfied and longing for more, we felt as if this life wasn't all there was, there must be something more, and so we set out in search of it.

And that is precisely Gods intension, He set it up that way to create within us a desire to search Him out.

"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart"
{JEREMIAH 29:13}

Even though we have a limited knowledge and access to Gods master plan, God is the master planner He sees it all from beginning to end **V11**, and everything He does turns out beautiful in time.

Even Jesus at the time He set aside His glory and took on human flesh, during that period was unaware of the times and seasons set by the father.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only"
REFERENCE TO JESUS SECOND COMING **{MATTHEW 24:36}**

In **V12,13** Solomon encourages us to rejoice and do good, enjoy the fruit of your labor, enjoy the season of life that you're currently in, and as we learned last week, the way we do that is by putting God first.

But let's say your one whose in a very difficult season in your life and rejoicing doesn't come easy ... *Death of a loved one, battling physical illness, loss of a job, family problems, hope prolonged*

Keep in mind we have limited access to Gods plan, we only see a frame at a time, where He see's it from beginning to end ... *Trust Him ...* He's going to make everything beautiful in its time ... *We really don't know what Gods up to*

Consider Jacobs son Joseph, he was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery, he was wrongfully accused of sexual misconduct and imprisoned, he was forgotten by the butler, yet over time and a series of events Joseph became the number two ruler in all of Egypt.

God used the unpleasant seasons in Joseph's life to prepare him to be placed in a position to save the world in a time of famine ... *Beautiful in time*

After the death of Joseph's father Jacob, Joseph's brothers assumed that Joseph would have his revenge on them.

*"Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?" ²⁰ **But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive"*** **{GENESIS 50:20}**

Who could have imagined that this was all a part of Gods master plan, who could have foreseen these things playing out the way they did.

Let's be real sometimes it's really hard to trust God and believe that His plan is good, especially when we don't really care for the season we're in.

*"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. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren"* **{ROMANS 8:28,29}**

God combines, brings together, the good and the bad, the joys and the sorrows, to make something beautiful.

We wish we could pick and choose don't we, Lord I just want the good, and not the bad, Lord I just want the easy and not the difficult.

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord"* **{LUKE 4:18,19}**

All the circumstances surrounding people's lives at the time of Jesus earthly ministry all played a role in Gods master plan ... *He did something beautiful*

READ ... V16-22

There's always been injustice in our world, and there will always continue to be injustice in our world until Jesus returns to rule and reign on the earth.

We're living in a time the Bible predicted would come, a time where lawlessness would abound, and good would be called evil and evil good.

MATTHEW 24:12 / ISAIAH 5:20

And as we long for justice to be served, and we long for things to be set right ... *Especially when were the victims.*

Consider the role we play, God can't hold injustice accountable, without holding us accountable for our part in it.

The human nature of man, when someone wrongs us personally we want justice, but when Johnny law pulls us over for speeding we want mercy.

Praise God, that God doesn't deal with injustice immediately, He is compassionate, long-suffering, slow to anger, and abounding in love, wanting none to perish.

Solomon makes a comparison to human beings and animals, both are given the breath of life, and both die a physical death, and like the comparison to the wise man and the fool, the animal and the human being at the time of death neither has an advantage over the other.

Human beings at times can behave like beasts *{animals}* **V18**, as if they have no concept of right or wrong, no concept of injustice, by the cruel way they mistreat and seek to devour one another ... *War in Ukraine*

Evil nations of the world are referred to as beasts in **Psalm 80:13** the anti christ and false prophet are referred as beasts in **Revelation 13**.

As believers we can take comfort in knowing that God has an appointed time when He will settle all accounts, every act of injustice will have its day in His court ... *gay rights movement bud light/target and others*

In conclusion Solomon says rejoice in your work **V12, 22**, enjoy your life, it's a gift from God, don't be consumed with fretting over any injustice that goes unpunished, in the end God's going to make every wrong right.

*"For our boasting is this: **the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you**"* **{2CORINTHIANS 1:12}**

Learn contentment, take pleasure in the season of life you're in today, if your in a difficult season know it will pass,

Keep reminding yourself that God is in control and in time He will make all things beautiful in *His time*.

It's all apart of His master plan ... *Doing Time in the Seasons of Life*