

Ecclesiastes– That's Life

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and saturated in His word.”

Once again in this text we are confronted with the theme from the teacher that life only makes sense when we live in fear of God and enjoy Him. This fundamental precept points out what seems to be the futility of life under the sun. The poem in verses 1-8 brings time into the picture and shows how we are in many ways really held captive by time. We all have the same amount of time, and it is really not something that we can control. We have a desire for control. We have an illusion of control as we religiously create and make our to do lists, but it is merely an illusion. Only one who has created time, who stands outside of time, and who gives purpose to time truly has control. Real meaning of time comes from trusting God and using our time for His glory.

1. The poem in verses 1-8 point out the extremes of what happens to all man. One is born and one dies, one is sad and one is happy, etc. Reading through this poem the teacher is speaking of life that man lives in between those two extremes. Man is always somewhere on that spectrum. Almost seems like one cancels out the other. It creates a tension in our lives to find meaning and purpose. What realities can we take from this poem? How have you experienced and dealt with these realities?
2. In verse 11 we read that God has placed eternity into the hearts of man. We are hardwired to know there is something else out there after death. Therefore, all people wrestle with the tension of finding meaning in their use of time and also the awareness of something beyond the grave. They may not acknowledge God and may even try to ignore God but this text shows that there is a common thread through all men. How can we use these truths in our sharing of the gospel? What would be a way to share the gospel knowing these truths?
3. We are called to see the sovereignty of God through the seasons of life. God stands outside of time giving meaning to our life in time. He is using the tensions in our seasons of life to show us our need for Him. V. 11 points out that God has made everything “beautiful” or “fitting” in its time. We can trust that He is in full authority and uses our time for a bigger purpose than we realize, for His glory. Whatever God does endures forever. God is doing something greater than we realize. Why do we constantly know this truth but fail to rest in this truth in our everyday “seasons of life?” We tend to make ourselves the center of the kingdom. How does the tension in the seasons of life shift our focus to His kingdom? What happens when we fail to recognize this truth?
4. Because of the sovereignty of God, we are able to enjoy life; eat, drink, and take pleasure in our toil. V.13 states that this is a gift from God to man. We can enjoy

life. Even in the tensions of time. Do you enjoy life? What keeps us from enjoying life? How does seeing a sovereign God allow us to have joy and to do good?

5. In v. 16-22 we can see that death will come to us all and once again we see the character of God in His justice and righteousness. We can trust His character. How does the character of God help you face the inevitable coming of death? How does it bring purpose and meaning to life under the sun?