

# **A Change of Heart and Perspective**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

**Key verse 3:14**

# Review

- **Wisdom is better than folly, but wisdom without God is smoke in the wind.**
- **Death comes to both the wise and the fool, and without God they both end up the same.**
- **True wisdom involves the fear of God.**
- **Knowing the difference between right and wrong didn't bring purpose to his life.**

# Review

- **Solomon looked at his labor**
  - **First he shares a love/hate relationship with his labor**
  - **Then he reveals his insecurity concerning his legacy.**
- **Solomon concludes that man is not good!**
- **God is the giver of all good things, and there is no true and lasting enjoyment in life apart from God.**

# Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

**[1] For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:**

**[2] a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

**[3] a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;**

**[4] a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;**

**[5] a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;**

# **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

**[6] a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;**

**[7] a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;**

**[8] a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.**

**[9] What gain has the worker from his toil? [10] I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. [11] He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**

# Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

**[12] I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; [13] also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. [14] I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. [15] That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.**

# Road Map

- 1) The Sovereignty of God revealed through “Time”**
- 2) Turning the corner**
- 3) Practical lessons from a 2800 year old sermon**

# 1)The Sovereignty of God revealed through “Time”

- **Scripture, at its most basic purpose, reveals the Character of God to His children.**
- **Verses 1-8 are a description of the orderliness and timeliness of God.**
  - **These verses use a form of comparison called “merism”**

**“God is not either/or; He is Both/And, depending on what time it is.” (Philip Ryken - Ecclesiastes)**

# 1) The Sovereignty of God revealed through “Time”

- Everything in its time
- God orders our lives.
- Eph 4:6 “one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

## 2) Turning the corner

- **Solomon begins to share what he has learned:**
  - **“ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time.” (ver 10-11)**
- **God is a God of order and timeliness:**
  - **Mark 1:15, Luke 9:51**
  - **John 7:6, Gal 4:4**

## 2) Turning the corner

**Ver 11 Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**

**“an etching of the eternal on our soul” is a hunger for Heavenly things without the ability to understand what it is that we long for.**

**“God has made us inquisitive about eternity. But just because He has given us a key to open some lock does not mean that he has shown us where on Earth the door is.” (Douglas Sean O’Donnell, *Ecclesiastes*)**

## 2) Turning the corner

- **Ver 12-13 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.**
- **Solomon is speaking in the context of life with God and not apart from Him.**
- **Different than in Chapters 1&2**
- **This is not a contradiction, but rather a change in his heart, and a change in his sightline.**

## 2) Turning the corner

**They key to understanding Ecclesiastes:**

**ver 14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.**

- **This fear is a “trembling trust.” We trust fully, but we tremble at the Almighty Overwhelming Power and Majesty of God.**
- **The fruit born out of a “trembling trust” is joy and a heart that desires to serve God.**

# 3) Practical lessons from a 2800 year old sermon

- **We have to accept that God is at work in everything in and around us, and everywhere else.**
- **We must be willing to accept that God is at work, even in the hearts of sinful people.**
- **Everything that God does is done to bring us to the place of real and right “fear” of Him.**

# Wrapping it Up

**Solomon comes back to where he started:**

- **God is a God of time and order**
- **He also reveals that God is bigger and wider than we could ever imagine.**
- **He then tells us that the only joy we will ever have is in serving God.**

**We need to let God be God.**

