

SUBJECT : Living In God's Time

BIBLE BASIS: Lesson Scripture:
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 14-15

BIBLE TRUTH:

There is a season , and a time to every purpose under the heavens for our life. He may not come when you want him, but, he's always on time.

MEMORY VERSE: Ecc. 3:1

Lesson Aim:

To be aware that timing is everything and yielding to Gods timing will provide a believer with a framework by which to evaluate life's experiences.

Introduction

- Today's text is a section containing a poem that describes the many seasons or cycles we will face in life. These seasons are ordained and controlled by God. 1Cor. 10:13
- How is the way of escape made for the believer? Ex. 23:20-23, Ps. 103:20, Ps 91:11-12, Matt. 4:5-11, Matt. 18:10
- The 3rd Chapter of Ecclesiastics contains a list of 14 pairs of opposites that describe our lives. One of the big question scholars discuss is whether this passage is to be taken positively or negatively. Is it praising the divine order of nature and Gods control over it, or is it complaining of the mundane, unrelenting regularity of life?
- It is possible that we may take it as neither positive nor negative. There is a middle position: Solomon simply may be stating facts.
- Timing is important. All the experiences listed in these verses are appropriate at the proper time. Ecc. 3:10-11
- The secret to peace with God is to discover, accept, and appreciate God's perfect timing. The danger is to doubt or resent God's timing. Prov. 14:12, Prov. 3:5-6
- This can lead to despair, rebellion, or moving ahead without his approval. Phil. 2:12-16, 1Thes 5:18
- Does God have a plan for our lives? 1Cor. 2:9. Jer. 29:11, John 10:10

Timing

- Eccles. 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
- This verse opens what is probably the most familiar passage in the book of Ecclesiastes. Solomon's point in this section is that God has a plan for all people. Thus he provides a course or cycles of life, each with its work for us to do. 2Tim 4:5-8
- Although we may face many problems that seem to contradict God's plan, these should not be barriers to believing in him, but rather opportunities to take your belief to the next level called trust. We must learn how to trust God when we cannot trace him. 2 Corn. 4:17-18
- We don't really manage time. We can only manage ourselves. Time continues at a regular pace for everyone. The only difference is how we fill up those years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes, seconds.
- Think of the many ways we use the word time. We say, "I don't have time to go," or "Its time for a new car." We may say, "Time to get up , Times up." There is clock time, which focuses on minutes and hours.
- There is also seasonal time, which means the right time or appointed time for something. For example, there is a time for snow and a time for sun. The seasons of the year reflect the design of the creator. It is this kind of time Solomon is interested in when he says that for everything there is a season.

A Time To Be Born

- [2] A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
- There is a big difference between the words **cause** and **control**. Cause means, “to bring about,” while control means, “to have power over.” the fact that God is sovereign mean that nothing escapes His control. In exercising His sovereign control, He may permit things to happen that he himself does not cause. All sinful actions would fit into this category. James 1:13-18,
- Even death was not Gods sovereign will, but became a part of the human experience because of mans own choice, not Gods. ICor. 15:21-22
- This distinction will help us avoid a sense of fatalism or, “what will be, will be.” The fact that God knows in advance what will happen does not mean that He is the one who caused it.
- If we didn’t have a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted we would have no fruits, vegetables, and grains. When it comes to the most important things in life we sow in one season and reap in another.
- Sowing and reaping, giving and receiving, planting and plucking are principle that operate in this physical world. Gal. 6:7, Like 6:38

A Time To Kill

- [3] A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- When is killing the right thing to do? Solomon is not talking about murder. Killing should never be motivated by malice or retaliation.
- When is it lawful to kill judicially or enforce capitol punishment? in cases of 1st degree murders. Gen 9:5-6, Num. 35:30
- What should be our attitude towards law enforcement? Rom 13:1-4
- In cases of self defense or accidental death the Bible made provisions for the guilty party and provided a city of refuge, Num. 35:15,
- Killing In War-time, that is a just war, is not easy but necessary. Where would this world be today if Hitler would have gone unchallenged the West and Europe? Matt. 24:5-6
- We as men, have often found time to kill. However, God has His time for "healing mankind. A much more difficult job. A life may be taken with ease in a moment, but healing can take much effort and patience. Luke 4:18, Hosea 6:1
- There comes times in our lives when we will have to breakdown or prepare to move from one location to another. That move can be a very emotional experience because we must be uprooted from a community of family and friends and start all over again. Gen. 12:-4

A Time To Weep

- [4] A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;.
- Most of us would rather never have to cry, unless they are tears of joy. In Gods providence, he sees fit to sometimes allow sorrow into our lives. Sometimes the weeping will be for our sins, whether our own , those loved ones, or those of the nation. I remembered the day Martin Luther King was assassinated, I cried. When I repented of my sins for the first time, I cried. Ps. 40:1-3, Ps. 30:5, 2Corn. 7:9-10
- God is not some kind of killjoy. He actually delights in sending joy to His people. The joy of the Lord is our strength and a merry heart maketh good like a medicine. Neh. 8:10, Pro. 17:22
- Into all of lives there will be times of mourning for the lost of a loved one. It is only fitting to mourn or show sorrow. Jesus weep at the grave of Lazareth. John 11:35
- On the other hand, God also sends times of great joy, when celebration, or dance is called for. Like what David did when the ark of the covenant returned to Jerusalem. David was so overjoyed he danced out of his clothes. The public display of what David was experiencing on the inside was an embarrassment to his wife Michale. What we celebrate tells us much about ourselves. 2Sam 6:12-15.

A Time To Cast Away

- [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; [6] A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- Casting away stones and gather stones could mean different things to different people. However, to embrace and refrain from embracing concerns personal relationships. It can be applied to a married relationship, friendships in general, your enemy. Whatever the view point we take, it is important to know God is superintending all that we have in life and all that we do with it. Ps. 24:1, Ps. 115:16
- God controls the boundaries of our lives and the seasons of life that mark our time on earth. Ps. 90: 9-12
- There is a time in our lives when we are to get or search for, new things. At other times we need to give things up.
- God brings times into our lives when we need to keep hold of something but the time may come when God will call upon us to throw it out. He may do this so that we will learn to value nothing as much as knowing Him. He alone remains constant. Col. 2:10

A Time To Rend

- [7] A time to rend, 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 of war, and a time of peace
- Weather we like it or not, God brings times of confrontation and struggle into our relationships. Sometimes there are hard times even between friends. Pro. 27:6
- There are times when God calls upon us to remain silent. At other times he wants us to speak up. It takes much wisdom to be able to know which time it is at any particular moment. James 1:19-20
- When is there a time for hating? We shouldn't hate evil people, but we should hate what they do. We should also hate it when people are mistreated, when children are starving, and when God is being dishonored. We must also hate sin in our lives. Ps. 97:10. Prov. 8:13
- The idea that there is a time to love should not be taken to mean that there are other times when the spiritual fruit of love should not be in our lives. Prov. 17:17, Rom. 13:8
- War has been a constant event in the history of mankind. Those who would say there is never an appropriate time for war must deal with the fact that God Himself called upon His people to fight a war to capture the promised Land. Deut. 20:16-18. What would the result have been if Hitler's plans had gone unchallenged?

Never Lost

- Eccles. 3:14-15 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. [15] That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.
- What is Gods ultimate purpose in sending these various contrast into our lives? To teach us that everything we experience in this life is tied to Him and his purpose. Rom 8:28, Prov. 3:5-8
- A born again relationship with Christ helps our life as a believer make since. John 3:1-9
- Hertz didn't invent the first never lost system, God did. When a man is born again, God places a never lost system in him. Our lives are full of a lot to twist and turn's, but, God has this ability to calibrate or reset our Life's course when we make a wrong turn. He recalibrates the directions that will get us to our final destiny in spite of the wrong turn. Through all of life's experiences we must know we have a reservation in heaven and a seat in the kingdom. 1Peter 1:3-5, Luke 10:17-20
- Jesus died to make provision for an eternal relationship with mankind. We as a believers receive Christ as our personal savior and that relationship is forever. John 5:23, John 10:27-30, John 11:21-26
- We must examine our lives for purpose and meaning in the light of the call God has on our life. Heb. 9:27, Rom. 14:10-13