

Ecclesiastes 3:1–15

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 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; 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; 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 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. 9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? 10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. 11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. 12 I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. 13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. 14 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.

Theme: God's Sovereignty Over Every Season of Life.

Main Point 1 - God Appoints Every Season

- Life's changes are not random; they are appointed.
- God ordains the seasons of life (3:1) He determines times & boundaries.

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; (Acts 17:26 KJV)

- Every season has divine purpose (3:2–8) - God works all things for good.

(Romans 8:28 KJV)

- We cannot control seasons; only respond faithfully - Our plans depend on God's will.

(James 4:13–15 KJV)

- God uses seasons to shape our character - Discipline produces righteousness.

(Hebrews 12:11KJV)

- Seasons remind us of God's sovereignty - God is the Alpha and Omega.

(Revelation 1:8 KJV)

Main Point 2 — God Has Placed Eternity in Our Hearts

Theme: *We long for more than this world can offer.*

- Humans long for eternity (3:11). **NT Reference:** *2 Corinthians 5:1–5* — We groan for our eternal home.
- Earthly life cannot satisfy eternal longing. **NT Reference:** *John 6:27* — Seek food that endures to eternal life.
- We cannot fully understand God’s plan. **NT Reference:** *Romans 11:33* — His ways are unsearchable.
- Eternal perspective brings peace. **NT Reference:** *Colossians 3:1–2* — Set your mind on things above.
- Eternity gives meaning to earthly seasons. **NT Reference:** *Philippians 3:20* — Our citizenship is in heaven.

Main Point 3 — Joy Comes from Receiving Life as a Gift

Theme: *Joy is found not in control, but in gratitude.*

- Enjoying daily blessings is God’s gift (3:12–13). **NT Reference:** *1 Timothy 6:17* — God richly provides for our enjoyment.
- Joy grows when we stop striving. **NT Reference:** *Matthew 6:25–34* — Do not worry; God provides.
- Work becomes meaningful when received from God. **NT Reference:** *Colossians 3:23* — Work as unto the Lord.
- Joy is an act of trust. **NT Reference:** *Philippians 4:4* — Rejoice in the Lord always.
- Joy honors God’s sovereignty. **NT Reference:** *James 1:17* — Every good gift comes from above.

Discussion Questions (6)

1. Which season of life are you currently experiencing?
2. Why do seasons of change feel difficult?
3. How does “eternity in our hearts” help us face disappointment?
4. What daily gifts has God given you to enjoy?
5. Why is joy an act of trust?
6. How can you honor God in your current season?

Practical Applications (6)

1. Identify your current season and name it before God.
2. Release one area of life you’re trying too hard to control.
3. Practice gratitude for three daily blessings.
4. Reflect on eternity to gain perspective on today’s frustrations.
5. Ask God to help you trust His timing.
6. Enjoy one simple gift today as an act of worship.