**Ladies Bible Study**

**Ecclesiastes, Lesson Two**

**Ecclesiastes 3**

**March 10, 2020**

1. **Objective #1: God’s ways are not always understood...a time for everything**
	1. BIG PICTURE VIEW: Verse 1-8:  **Seasons** will occur. It is inevitable!
		1. Solomon uses 14 different comparisons:
	2. *Key Verse: 3:1: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity (purpose) under the heavens;*
	3. Life and Death
		1. 3:2: time to be **BORN** and a time to die, a time to  **PLANT** and a time to uproot,
2. Jewish Culture understood agriculture: They understood that if you work with nature, nature works with you.
	* 1. Supporting Scripture:  Psalm 139:13-16: **Reflective prayer**

 For you (GOD) *created my inmost being*; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; *your works are wonderful*, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you  when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. *All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.* **GOD IS SOVEREIGN!!!!!!!!!!!**

Genealogy connection: **David (earthly father of Solomon) wrote this prayer. Think how many times Solomon might have heard this concept and truth?!**

**Question 1: Our birth and “death” are already known by our Heavenly Father.**

**What in addition to our birth/ death being known do we attain from scripture? (Consider**

**Proverbs 19:21...also written by Solomon)**

*Many are the plans in the man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.*

 *WE, ME, YOU HAVE A PURPOSE that GOD CREATED YOU FOR!!!!*

**Question 2: How does our purpose that we were CREATED FOR apply to a time for everything? (Take 1 minute and jot down your ideas.)**

*Our purpose is still the purpose we were created to do. IT doesn’t matter the season. Our purpose STILL prevails. The seasons are simply part of the journey in order for us to be able to serve in our purpose.*

* 1. Relationships (vs 3-4)

   a time to **kill** and a time to heal, a time to **tear down** and a time to build,

 (Violent death, war)

    a time to **weep** and a time to laugh, a time to  **mourn** and a time to dance,

**Question 3: What does God’s word say to us about relationships with other people?**

*We must be ready to walk away from certain people and cultivate others if that is the season. Side note: It is not always easy to do this...but certainly is necessary at times.*

* 1. *SO MANY SEASONS!!!!!!! (vs 5-8) “****We can't go over*** *it.* ***We can't go*** *under it.* ***We****'ve got to* ***go*** *through it!” (We’re going on a Bear Hunt)*

  a time to **scatter stones** and a time to gather them, a time to  **embrace** and a time to refrain from embracing,

   a time to **search** and a time to give up, a time to **keep** and a time to throw away,

   a time to **tear**  and a time to mend, a time to **be silent** and a time to speak,

   a time to **love** and a time to hate, a time for   **war** and a time for peace.

 **Hate: See Proverbs 6:16-19  WHAT THINGS IS IT OKAY TO HATE?**

 *Haughty eyes, lying tongue, hands that shed blood, heart devising wicked schemes, feet quick to rush into evil, false witness, stirring up conflict*

 *Note: IT IS THE ACTION THAT WE HATE, THE SIN...NOT THE SINNER!!!!*

**Question 4: Why would Solomon take 8 verses comparing completely polar opposites?!**

*There will be many different seasons...can you think of a season you struggled through but came out better for it?*

**Question 5:  What comfort/ joy does knowing “there is a time for everything” give us?**

1. It is a journey
2. Season means there is a beginning and an end...During each season, we learn something, glean something, grow closer to our heavenly Father!

*So many seasons in life….but it is a season...with a beginning and an end. We may not understand it, we may struggle, BUT it is part of the story that God has for us...because it isn’t our story...it is HIS! Why is this important to remember? Consider the phrase: “We grow in the hard.”*

Verse 11a: HE HAS MADE **EVERYTHING** beautiful in its time.

STORY TIME!!!!!!!!

 **Question 6: How do you react to this verse?**

**Objective #2:  There is a longing in man...\_ETERNITY!!!!!**

Verses 9-15

Verse 11b: He has set **ETERNITY** in the **HEARTS** of men.

Why do you think Solomon writes this?! (Consider Ecclesiastes chapters 1 and 2)

 *He tried all the pleasures, riches, women, etc...he was still searching because they did not satisfy!*

**Question 1: What are things that we try to “fill” ourselves with?**

Materialism, money, busyness, prestige, praise, etc...

Verse 12-13: What can we gather from Solomon’s commentary here?

 **ENJOY WHAT YOU ARE DOING! LIVE FOR GOD!**

Combine THIS with verse 14. “I know that **EVERYTHING**  God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him. “

Consider Ephesians 2:10

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Question 2: How will you, how will I use the time we are given? Consider the season you are currently in…**

**TRUTH: We have a purpose, to serve God. We all have works that he created specifically for us to do and if everything God does will endure forever...LIFE IS NOT MEANINGLESS!!! What you are designed to do, what were made to do...YOUR PURPOSE will have LASTING AND ETERNAL IMPACT BECAUSE IT IS NOT YOUR WORK...IT IS GOD’S! To think...we are privileged to be a part of this!**

**Objective #3:  To understand that ALL mankind will be judged regardless of life choices**

Verse 15-22

Verse 15: GOD IS IN CONTROL!

RECALL Ecc. 1:9-11

Verse 16: And I saw something else “**under the sun:”** In the place of judgement- **WICKEDNESS** was there,in the place of justice-  **JUDGEMENT** was there. I thought  in my heart, “GOD WILL BRING TO JUDGMENT BOTH THE **RIGHTEOUS** and the **WICKED**, for there will be a time for every activity, a time for every deed.

2nd Corinthians 5:10:

For we must \_**ALL**  appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him from the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

**Question 1: Why does Solomon bring this to our attention?**

*Every day, we have a job to do. Every day, we make choices. EVERYTHING WE DO WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE GOD. CONSIDER HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING OUR DAILY LIFE.*

**Objective #4:  To understand that...God desires you, me...to enjoy life...this includes work!**

Verses 18-22

Verse 22: So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?

**Question 1: HOW WE DOING?**

**It’s time for our CARDIOLOGY CHECK UP:**

1. **Are we living with faith in our Sovereign God (PSALM 139:13-16)?**
2. **Are we living in a way that we remember there are seasons (Ecc. 3:1-8)?**
3. **Are we living in a way that we remember that GOD MAKES EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL (Ecc3:11)?**
4. **Are we living in a way that we remember that we all have a purpose that we were specifically created for (Ecc 3:14, Eph 2:10)?**

**Are we living in a way that our joy, our contentment, our hope is not found “under the sun” but rather in knowing that we are serving a greater story than our own?**

**TRUTH:**

**YOU, DAUGHTER OF CHRIST are created by a MIGHTY GOD for a purpose, a purpose that holds eternal value because it is our creator’s story...not your own. YOU will not always understand it or enjoy it but never lose faith. HE is sovereign, HE is in control, HE makes you more and more beautiful every step you take. HE makes ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL...EVEN the things you do not see or understand. It will not always be easy...but it will always be worth it. LIVE WITH CONFIDENCE and JOY IN WHO ARE AND THE ROLE YOU PLAY NOT BECAUSE OF ANYTHING YOU DO, NOT BECAUSE IT IS EASY...BUT BECAUSE OF WHO YOUR CREATOR IS.**

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**Observations Sheet for Lesson 3**

**Read Ecclesiastes 4 and 5**

* In Ecclesiastes 4:4, the writer observes that everything a man works to achieve is fueled by what?
* What similarities do you see between the man in 4:7-8 and the man we previously discussed in 2:18-22?
* According to Ecclesiates 4:10-12, are we better off on our own or with companions?
	+ Why?
* How many times do we see the word “meaningless” in Chapter 4? (Your version may say “vanity”)
* Read Chapter 5:4-7 and then turn in your Bible to Deuteronomy 23:21-23. Does God take promises (vows) seriously? If you do not keep your promises what have you committed?
* According to 5:12-17, what are some of the disadvantages of wealth?