

November 22, 2020
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Ecclesiastes: Ancient Wisdom Learned In 2020
Ep. 2 Living In Season
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Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. ⁹What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has also set eternity in the human heart;** yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. 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 people will fear him.

Living in season

In the 3rd chapter of Ecclesiastes, Solomon highlights three ancient insights that apply to modern day existence:

1. **Live in season.**
2. **Temporal pursuits will never satisfy eternal desire.**
3. **What you do with God endures forever.**

“The blessedness of waiting is lost on those who cannot wait, and the fulfillment of promise is never theirs. They want quick answers to the deepest questions of life and miss the value of those times of anxious waiting, seeking with patient uncertainties until the answers come. They lose the moment when the answers are revealed in dazzling clarity.”

- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

1. Live in Season

- **Vs. 1** There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.
- We serve a God of seasons (rhythms).
- Few people understand how to live in season.

2. Eternity in our hearts: Temporal pursuits will never satisfy eternal desire.

- **Solomon's great question: Vs. 9** *What do workers gain from their toil?*
- **Vs. 11** *He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*
 - Our souls suffer an eternal thirst which can only be satiated by an eternal God.

3. What you do with God endures forever.

- **Vs. 14** *I know that everything God does will endure forever.*
- Reality only exists in that which lasts forever.
- Those who pursue the temporary passions of life dwell in the realm of phantoms.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think God created seasons? Vs. 1
2. How good are you at living in season and what does living in season look like?
3. Solomon says that God put a great burden upon mankind by putting eternity within our hearts? Why would he say that and what does it mean to have eternity in our hearts?
4. Vs. 14 says that *everything that God does endures*. What does that mean and how do we enter into the enduring things of God?
5. Where have you been possibly wasting time chasing after things that do not endure?