

IFCA International – NW Regional
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“God and His Work” (Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 14)

Personal Greetings – I’m honored to be with you this morning. On behalf of my family and congregation, please accept our greetings and love for you as you serve in your corner of the vineyard. We are thankful for your congregation and how God is using you in your Jerusalem.

Introduction – Nobody likes phases in life where you are being stretched! I’ve faced personal seasons where you feel very lonely, and very helpless. It is at times like this when like Elijah we often wonder if God has forgotten us (see 1 Kings 19:4). We feel this way, even though we know God has promised not to abandon us. He has promised to meet our every need. How should believers respond to the tough times? Ecclesiastes says something to each one of us, when we face the hard times of life

Background to Ecclesiastes – The term “Ecclesiastes” comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew OT (called the Septuagint – abbreviated as LXX). It means “preacher.” A literal rendition of the Hebrew Title of this book is *Qoheleth*, which means “one who calls or gathers” the people. It was used of the one who would address the congregation of believers. We today would call him “the preacher.” Typically, a Rabbi would read Ecclesiastes during Pentecost. The central theological theme of this OT books seems to be the absolute futility (vanity) of living life apart from the glory of God. Solomon takes the time to explain to the reader (hearer) that from his vantage point (the preacher’s vantage point) life is correctly understood only from the perspective of living for God. .

Background to this morning’s Text – As we come to chapter three, Solomon has already introduced the reader to the main theme of the book (essentially chp 1). He then walks through the book exposing the vanity of a variety of life-themes (such as pleasure-seeking – 2:1-11; the difference between wisdom and folly 2:12-17, and the seemingly empty pursuit of “justice” – chp 7). In chp 3, Solomon reflects on the theme of God’s control of life and his oversight of each phase of life. Let’s notice this morning five truths about God’s work in each phase of our life:

I. God and His Work _____ Is Seen In Every Season _____ (vs. 1-8).

II. God and His Work _____ Is No Dependent upon man _____ (vs. 9-10).

III. God and His Work _____ Is Beautiful _____ – It is perfect (v. 11a).

IV. God and His Work _____ Is Never Late _____ (v. 11b).

(We need to understand 4 truths about God’s timing)

1. God’s timing is fixed to God ___Predestined_____ will (Eph 1:11)
 2. God sometimes allows his work to be resisted by_Satan_& evil-spiritual armies (Eph 6:12; Dan 10:12-13)
 3. God’s timing is sometimes delayed (we think) because of a _Lesson_ that we need to learn (Gen 22:6f)
 4. God’s timing is sometimes delayed (we think) because God has a better ___Option_____ (Gen 24:12f)
- The Point on timing – We can trust God’s character (Prov. 3:5-6)

V. God and His Work _____ Understood By God Alone _____ (v. 11c).

Conclusion: How should we self-govern in light of these thoughts? (vs. 12-14)

1. Rejoice (v. 12a)
2. Do Good (v. 12b)
3. Enjoy the blessings of every-day life (v. 13)
4. Rest in the wisdom and sovereignty of God (v. 14)