

YOUR TIME IS IN GOD'S HANDS

Ecclesiastes 3:9-22 (Part 2)

“Most people have a view of life shaped by their conclusions about five areas:

- Their past experiences.
- Their present situation.
- Their future prospects.
- Their personal identity.
- God and what He is doing.

“Many people do not use the Bible to make sense out of life. Instead, they use their life experiences to make sense out of the Bible — to dictate what they believe about God, His work, and His Word.

But God’s Word is the great interpreter of life.

Its conclusions should determine how I explain my experiences.” *(Paul David Tripp)*

What **conclusions** are you operating from?

How do you understand and interpret these seasons **as you experience them**?

What biblical truths will help me respond to God in this situation?

Three biblical views of God's use of time to control every event of your life, and by which you can trust God in **everything**:

I. The God of Time (Eccles. 3:1-8)

The Lord **controls** the details of our lives; He is **managing** every aspect of the season; **He determines** the timing, intensity, and duration of any of these given seasons of your life.

<i>Verse 2</i>	+ giving birth + planting	> >	- dying - uprooting
<i>Verse 3</i>	- killing - tearing down	< <	+ healing + building up
<i>Verse 4</i>	- weeping - mourning	< <	+ laughing + dancing
<i>Verse 5</i>	+ throwing stones + embracing	> >	- gathering stones - refraining from embracing
<i>Verse 6</i>	+ searching + keeping	> >	- giving up searching - throwing away
<i>Verse 7</i>	- tearing - being silent	< <	+ sewing together + speaking
<i>Verse 8</i>	+ loving -making war	> <	- hating + making peace

I. The God of Time (Eccles. 3:1-8)

Time is a fixed reality of God's creative wisdom for His world. It is orderly, purposeful, and founded on God's design for how life works.

I. The God of Time (Eccles. 3:1-8)

II. The Gift of Time (Eccles. 3:9-15)

What is God's endgame?

God works in your life so that you will stand in awe of Him.

God is working worshipful, humble trust in your heart for Him.

The fact that what God works and purposes for your life cannot change, is out of your control, and will accomplish God's purposes for you should make you worshipful before Him. Our human limitations and weaknesses should drive us to God in humble dependence and grateful submission.

II. The Gift of Time (Eccles. 3:9-15)

“We are the ones to pass it by. We are the ones who walk away, so God brings us back to the same lesson to learn it again. And He doesn’t give up when we pass it by. He brings us back again and again to learn our lessons well. We get weary of learning the lesson and we run from it. We turn it off. Yet He repeats the same lesson. He repeats it and repeats it and repeats it until finally the light comes on and we learn it. Why? Because God seeks what you and I try to escape. God pursues what you and I turn off. God makes a permanent lesson out of what you think is a temporary and passing experience.” *(Charles Swindoll)*

I. The God of Time (Eccles. 3:1-8)

II. The Gift of Time (Eccles. 3:9-15)

III. The Good of Time (Eccles. 3:16-22)

Why is time good? In what sense is it good?

Time is good because **God** uses time in a believer's life to make the most of that believer's relationship with God, others, and the world.

So, *“nothing is better than that man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot.”* (his lot = his appointed way or portion.)

Unlike the animals, God provides or portions you the opportunity for your activities to be meaningful and enjoyable, **but only as you live them in response to Him as His gifts to you.**

III. The Good of Time (Eccles. 3:16-22)

The main point of this appointed way of the Lord for you to live in these seasons and time:

To develop and grow in you a humble, worshipful heart for God in every detail of your life.

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