



Pastor Doug Wilson • BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS
September 20, 2020

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-15 (TNIV)

¹ **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,*

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.*

⁹ What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ **HE 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.**

¹² *I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.* ¹³ *That 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.** [NASB: "...so that people will *"be in awe before Him"*]

¹⁵ *Whatever is has already been,
and what will be has been before;
and God will call the past to account.*

WHAT SOLOMON* KNOWS ABOUT OUR LIVES

► **He's honest:** sometimes, life can feel a little _____.

v. 9 "What do workers gain from their toil?" (see also v. 15)

► **He's realistic:** often, life can be pretty _____.

v. 10 "I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race":

► **He's credible:** generally speaking, life is _____.

v. 11c "no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end"

1. Our lives don't _____. But it might _____ like it!

v. 2 "a time to be born and a time to die"

v. 12 "while they live..."

v. 14 "everything **God** does will endure forever"

2. Life isn't _____. But it's also _____! (God gives us _____ to live through.)

vv. 1-8 a. Solomon has thought long and hard about life's _____.
Let's take a moment and reflect with him.

b. These seasons aren't always easy, or _____. Some are excruciating.

QUESTIONS: Which seasons do you most _____?

Which seasons do you absolutely _____?

What season are you _____ right now?

v. 11a "He has made everything beautiful in its time":

But how can we learn to _____ the beauty in our seasons?

a. We can learn to..._____ them.

b. We can learn to..._____ them. (*Identify*)

c. We can learn to..._____ them. (vv. 12-15)