



Pastor Doug Wilson • BETHANY - A PLACE OF NEW BEGINNINGS
October 18, 2020 • FOURTH IN A SERIES OF MESSAGES

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 [rejoice] 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 & nothing taken from it. **GOD DOES IT SO THAT PEOPLE WILL FEAR HIM.**

[NASB: so that people will "be in awe before Him"]

[THE VOICE: "We humans can only stand in awe of all God has done."]

HOW WE CAN SURVIVE OUR "SEASONS"

1. In the middle of life's _____ but _____ "seasons"...

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

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

We can learn to...**EXPECT** them...**DETECT** them...**NAVIGATE** them.

How can we learn to NAVIGATE our seasons & see the beauty in them?

2. ...we can still ENJOY God's _____, everyday _____!

¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy [NASB: "to **rejoice**"] 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!**

(a) _____! — *"I know that there is nothing better for people than to rejoice"*

ECCLESIASTES 2:24-26 (NIV)

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to **eat and drink** and **find satisfaction in their own toil**. This too, I see, is **from the hand of God**, ²⁵ **for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?** ²⁶ To the person who pleases him, **God gives** wisdom, knowledge and **joy**...

(b) Rejoice in your _____ — *"That each of them may eat and drink"*

ROMANS 12:1-2 (The Message)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: **Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.** Embracing what God does for **you** is the best thing you can do for **him**.

(c) Rejoice in your _____ — *"Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love"*

1. He commends the enjoyment of life through a _____ partnership. (Not everybody marries, of course. But God bless ALL of us to enjoy life through family connections! Sometimes that's through the family of God,)

ECCLESIASTES 9:7-10 (TNIV)

⁷ **Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joy—**

ful heart, for God has already approved what you do. ⁸ Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. ⁹ **Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days** of this meaningless life that *God has given you* under the sun — all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.
¹⁰ *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might*, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

2. He condemns a _____, self-_____ life of isolation – literally “There is one, not two...” This man failed to cultivate a business partner or _____, a father-son relationship or a brother/sibling relationship! Instead of living to _____ he lived to _____ – his goal was working to accumulate & hoard, not cooperate and contribute. Instead of becoming a life-giving conduit of _____ he chose to be a Dead Sea of _____. He is like the miser Jesus described whose goal was to “build more barns”! He lives to _____, not to _____.

ECCLESIASTES 4:7-12 (TNIV)

⁷ Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

⁸ **There was a man ALL ALONE**

– God in Gen. 2:18 calls this “_____”!

he had neither son nor brother.

There was no end to his toil,

– we’d call him a “_____”!

yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.

– we’d call him “_____”!

“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,

“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”

– a “_____” worker!

This too is meaningless—
a miserable business!

3. He commends a “_____” way to live – Connecting!
Living in community:

(a) it brings _____ for your efforts.

⁹ **Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:**

(b) it brings _____ when you are struggling.

¹⁰ **If they fall down,
they can help each other up.
But pity those who fall
and have no one to help them up!**

(c) it brings _____ when you feel isolated;

¹¹ **Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?**

(d) it brings _____ when you are overwhelmed.

¹² **Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.**

(e) And it reminds us of our _____
with “One Greater Than Solomon”!

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

MATTHEW 18:20 (J.B. Phillips)

*For wherever two or three people
come together in my name,
I am there, right among you!”*