

<b>WEEK 5: October 8, 2017</b>	<b>Ecclesiastes 3:1-15</b>	<b><i>Timing Is Everything</i></b>
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Ecclesiastes 3:1–15

<sup>1</sup> There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: <sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, <sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, <sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, <sup>5</sup> a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, <sup>6</sup> a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, <sup>7</sup> **a time to tear and a time to mend**, a time to be silent and a time to speak, <sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. <sup>9</sup> What does the worker gain from his toil? <sup>10</sup> I have seen the burden God has laid on men. <sup>11</sup> He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. <sup>12</sup> I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. <sup>13</sup> That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God. <sup>14</sup> 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 men will **revere** him. <sup>15</sup> Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will **call the past to account**.

### **GOD SHEPHERDS EVERY SEASON OF OUR LIVES**

- Birthdays and Funerals, vs. 2
- Life's brokenness, vs. 3
- Matters of the heart, vs. 4
- Cycles of opportunity, vs. 5-8

### **GOD IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF DISCOVERING PURPOSE**

- Frustration, vs. 11
- Satisfaction, a God-given gift, vss. 12-13
- Devotion to God, vs. 14
- Recognition of God's Sovereignty, vs. 15

Acts 17:24–31, <sup>24</sup> “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far

from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup> "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. <sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

### **For further study . . .**

1. After studying Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, how would you answer a coworker, friend or family member who challenges your belief in the essential goodness of God?
2. Notice how the principle of God's appointed time is applied to Jesus:

Galatians 4:4-5, <sup>4</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

John 7:1-9, <sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. <sup>2</sup> But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, <sup>3</sup> Jesus' brothers said to him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. <sup>4</sup> No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> For even his own brothers did not believe in him. <sup>6</sup> Therefore Jesus told them, "The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. <sup>8</sup> You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come." <sup>9</sup> Having said this, he stayed in Galilee.

3. Read the following verses and notice how God's timing applies to our salvation:

Mark 1:15, <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Romans 5:6, <sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.