

THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

TRUST THE TIMING (ECCLESIASTES 3-5)

Memory Verse: "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14



1. Trust God's Timing in the Circumstances

- Ecclesiastes 3:1
- Solomon provides fourteen pairs of opposites, such as:
 - birth/death; mourning/dancing; war/peace
 - Ecclesiastes 3:11
 - Hebrew word **eth** means appointed time, fixed season, proper moment
 - Acts 1:7

2. Trust God's Timing in Justice

- Ecclesiastes 3:17
- Justice delayed does not mean justice denied
 - Romans 12:19

3. Trust God's Timing in Position

- Ecclesiastes 4:4
- Ecclesiastes 5:10
- When we don't trust God's timing in position, we exhaust ourselves in possessions
- Hebrew word **yaga** means toil, exhausting labor, wearisome effort
 - 1 Timothy 6:6

4. Trust God's Timing in Worship

- Ecclesiastes 5:1-2
- Timing in worship shows preparation, reverence, and a desire to listen. Sometimes the best worship is silence in waiting rather than speed to speak/sing.
 - James 1:19

5. Trust God's Timing in Enjoyment

- Ecclesiastes 5:18-20
- The enjoyment of God's gifts is a reward of trusting His timing; rather than wasting today in pursuit of tomorrow.
 - James 1:17

Baptism + Church-wide Cookout at Victory Mountain Camp on August 9th,
12:45-4PM, 3594 Youth Camp Rd, Sophia, NC

Questions:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; Romans 8:28; Psalm 31:15. How does believing that God appoints every season change the way we respond to disappointment, delay, or suffering? Augustine's mother, Monica, prayed for her son's salvation for thirty years. When Augusting finally surrendered to Jesus, His life impacted thousands of people and generations that followed for the KIngdom. Is there someone or something that you have been praying for a long time? Identify one area where you have struggled to wait on God's timing. What would trusting God look like this week?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 3:16-17; Romans 12:19; Psalm 73. Why is trusting God's justice better than seeking personal revenge? How do you react when you see injustice in your workplace, family, or community?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 4:4; 5:10; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; Hebrews 13:5. How does comparison rob us of joy, and what practices help cultivate biblical contentment? John Wesley made a great deal of money from his writings, but he kept his lifestyle the same and gave most away. What can his stewardship teach us about using resources for God's kingdom rather than personal accumulation? Where are you tempted to compare yourself with others? How can gratitude reshape perspective?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7; Isaiah 6; John 4:24; James 1:19. What does it mean to "keep thy foot" when entering God's house and how can believers prepare their hearts for worship? How did the Reformers' emphasis on the preaching of Scripture encourage deeper reverence and transformation in worship? How can you better prepare your heart before corporate worship?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; James 1:17; Philippians 4:11-13; Colossians 3:23. How can believers enjoy God's gifts without allowing them to become idols? List three everyday gifts from God for which you are thankful. Recognizing God's gifts in ordinary life cultivates a mindset of continual learning, gratitude and dependence. How has God been working in your life? How does Galatians 6:9 relate to God's timing?