

Time for Everything

August 9, 2026

Main Passage: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Theological Theme

There is a season for everything, and God is with us through them all.

Introduction

- ❓ How would you describe the season you are in right now?
- ❓ What blessings has God brought you in your current season? What challenges are you facing?

1. A Time for Every Activity (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Throughout Ecclesiastes, Solomon unpacked the question, what are we living for? In chapter 1, he wrote about the futility of work. If “there is nothing new under the sun” (1:9) and the world will keep right on spinning after we are gone, what’s the point? He also said in a few generations “There is no remembrance of those who came before” (1:11). And then the same thing will happen to the generations that come after us.

- ❓ What was Solomon’s point in these verses?
- ❓ How would you describe the list of activities Solomon named in these verses?
- ❓ How have you experienced the truth that there is a time for everything in life?

2. What’s the point? (Ecclesiastes 3:9-10)

In chapter one, Solomon unpacked the idea that our work doesn’t really amount to anything in the grand scheme of things. The world will go on without us, and a few generations down the line, for most of us, no one will remember we even existed (and that generation will continue in this never-ending cycle). Solomon posed the same question here: What do we gain from our toil?

- ❓ How do these verses connect to Solomon’s point in chapter 1?

- ❓ Why is it worth regularly reflecting on the main point of our lives? How would you answer that question?
- ❓ How can we distinguish between the effects of the fall on work and work as God's good creation for people?

3. Everything Appropriate in Its Time (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Mourning is painful, but it can be therapeutic, too. We can look back on hard seasons with gratitude and see beauty in the way God showed up for us. Metaphorically tearing down something we spent time and energy to build can feel defeating, but many times, God has something better for us on the other side.

- ❓ What does it mean that God has “made everything appropriate in its time” (v. 11)?
- ❓ How has God put eternity in our hearts? How is this true even for those who don't follow Christ?
- ❓ Where do you feel the longing for eternity in daily life?

Conclusion

God is with us in the valleys. And He uses every single situation we encounter for good. We won't understand everything He is doing this side of heaven, but we can take comfort in knowing that He's with us, and our life and work isn't futile. We are a vital part of what God is doing in the world.

- ❓ How do you hold together the tension of the toil of daily life and eternity that is on our hearts?
- ❓ How can understanding that we won't discover the work God has done from beginning to end (v. 11) impact how we live each day?
- ❓ What does this passage teach us about God and His character?