

Greater Than: Jesus Gives Meaning to Time
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
5-8-22

I. Jesus is Greater than the Realities of Life. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Proverbs 26:4-5 – “*Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.*”

II. Your Frustration Should Drive You to Trust Christ. (Ecclesiastes 3:9-15)

1. Time is subject to God’s sovereignty. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Matthew 24:36 – “*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.*”

Genesis 50:20 – “*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*”

Job 5:9 – “*who [God] does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number:*”

Psalms 145:3 – “*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.*”

Isaiah 40:28 – “*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.*”

Romans 11:33 – “*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*”

2. Trust in His eternal plan. (Ecclesiastes 3:12)

Proverbs 3:5 – “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*”

“You made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they can find their rest in You.” - Augustine

3. Time is a gift from God to enjoy. (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13)

4. Totality of God's enduring. (Ecclesiastes 3:14)

1 Chronicles 16:34 – "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Psalms 111:3 – "Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever."

Psalms 111:10 – "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!"

Psalms 117:2 – "For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"

Psalms 119:160 – "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."

Psalms 135:13 – "Your name, O Lord, endures forever, your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages."

Lamentations 5:19 – "But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations."

Isaiah 51:6 – "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my [God's] salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

Daniel 4:34 – "At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation"

Matthew 24:35 – "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

III. Solomon's Words are Still Truth for Today.

Romans 8:28-29 – "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Romans 8:35-39 – "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Ephesians 1:9-10 – "making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

Galatians 4:4-6 – "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"

Growing Deeper This Week

1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-15.
2. In what ways do you find the seasons of your life comforting? In what ways are they concerning?
3. Do you feel that time is moving too fast or too slow? Why?
4. Is there something you do or experience in life right now that earlier in your life you promised you would never do? What might that be?
5. What are some indicators in our life that we were made for more than time and were meant for eternity?
6. Were there trying times in your life that you did not understand at the time, but as you look back, you can see God's good purpose in all of it? What were they, and how did God use them?
7. How can you trust God during painful times that you do not understand and cannot possibly see how they might be used as part of His plan?
8. How does knowing that God has a grand plan help you enjoy life now? What are some things you need to enjoy more deeply in light of that reality?
9. Pray for someone you know.