

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
ECCLESIASTES 3:1-14

SERMON LISTENING GUIDE // DATE: _____

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 // For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, 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 gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. ¹⁴ I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

Happy New Year!
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

What makes for a happy new year?

I. God's control of the times

- A. The description of life's seasons (v. 1-8)
- B. Beyond your control (v. 14a)

II. God's purpose in the times

- A. Human response to God's control (v. 9-11)
- B. Cultivating a heart of trust (v. 14b)

III. God's redemption of the times

- A. Timing of Jesus' coming (Gal. 4:4; Mark 1:15; John 7:30)
- B. Jesus' experience of life's seasons (Heb. 4:15)
- C. Turning to Jesus (Matt. 6:25, 32-34)

APPLICATION GUIDE

1. Which of the seasons of life in verses 2-8 have you experienced over the past year?
2. Can you relate to the frustration of wanting to make sense of the times but being unable to do so? How do you respond to this frustration?
3. What are you anxious about? What are you afraid of? How are you seeing this as an invitation to trust God? How does Christ's perfect trust of his Father while on earth foster your trust?