

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-4:3**  
**For the week of April 30, 2023**

**Reflection**

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

Fun Fact: In 1965, the group The Byrds recorded the song "Turn! Turn! Turn!" based on the first eight verses of chapter three.

**Life is composed of joy and sorrow, building and destroying, and living and dying. Each comes at the proper time. This reminds us that we are creatures of time and not yet able to partake in the joys of eternity. No one can be happy who has not come to grips with the reality that life is full of changes and sorrows as well as continuity and joy. We must accept that we are mortal and governed by time<sup>1</sup>**

**Observation** (vs. 1-8)

3. Summarize these verses.

**Interpretation**

*No one can be happy who has not come to grips with the reality that life is full of changes and sorrows as well as continuity and joy. We must accept that we are mortal and governed by time.<sup>2</sup>*

4. Considering these verses, is this statement true, false, partially true...? Why?

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<sup>1</sup> Duane A. Garrett, [\*Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs\*](#), vol. 14, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993), 298.

<sup>2</sup> Duane A. Garrett, [\*Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs\*](#), vol. 14, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993), 298.

### **Application**

5. When situations are “out of your control”, how does that impact your walk with Christ?

6. Does God's perfect timing give you peace? Why or why not?

### **Observation** (vs. 9-15)

7. What is being said in these verses?

### **Interpretation**

8. The Preacher moves from “under the sun” and begins to include the workings of God. What are your thoughts on:

He has made everything beautiful in its time –

He has put eternity into man's heart –

Taking pleasure in meals and work as a gift of God –

9. How do verses 14 and 15 speak to God's grace and sovereignty?

**Observation** (vs. 16-22)

10. What is the Preacher saying in these verses?

**Interpretation**

11. What do you see the Preacher saying in verses 16 and 17?

12. How do these verses speak of God's judgement?

13. Compare verse 20 to Genesis 3:19. Write down your thoughts.

**Application**

14. How do you handle circumstances where wickedness appears in place of justice and righteousness?

15. How do you work on your faith during times of social injustice and contradiction?

**Observation** (4:1-3)

16. What message is the Preacher trying to convey in these verses?

**Interpretation**

17. What do these verses say about oppression?

Deuteronomy 24:14 –

Psalm 34:18 –

Proverbs 22:16 –

Proverbs 28:16 –

**Application**

18. How do you find comfort in times of oppression?