

Pastor Keith Krell | February 20, 2022
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 | “Time’s Up!”

Sermon Application Review from Ecclesiastes 1:12–2:26

How did you lay down your primary pleasure this past week (1:12–2:26)?

How did you celebrate a specific good gift from God (2:24–26)?

Scripture References

Ecclesiastes 3:1–15

Isaiah 55:8–9

Acts 1:6–7; 17:26

Romans 8:28–29

Galatians 4:4–5

Ephesians 5:15–17

James 4:13–15

Study Questions

1. How does it make you feel to know that God is ultimately in charge of all the events in your life (3:1)? Are you comforted by this reality? If so, how does this truth comfort you? Do you find God’s sovereignty a bit disconcerting? How so? Read Proverbs 16:9; 19:21; 21:1; Daniel 4:25; Acts 17:26; James 4:13–15. What things do you seek to control? What might it look like to surrender control to the Lord?
2. Do you agree with Solomon that God’s plan includes a time for “everything” (3:2–8)—even war, death, mourning, and hate? Why or why not? When have you experienced the ebb and flow of life? Do you find this constant, pendulum-like description of life comforting or discouraging? Why? Are you able to “take life in stride” or do you have extreme highs and lows, dependent upon your circumstances? If the latter, what can you do to be more spiritually consistent? How could you have a wiser perspective on your time?
3. How have you seen 3:11 proven true your life and the lives of others? Can you sense a longing for the eternal in yourself and others? How does this flesh itself out? How has God made “everything appropriate in its time” in your life? What expressions of this have you seen recently?
4. When you think of the gifts God has given you, what or who immediately comes to mind (3:12)? How often do you express your gratitude to God for His many gifts? How frequently do you acknowledge certain people as God’s gifts?
5. What does it mean to fear God (3:14–15)? How does the fear of God manifest itself in your life? Read 5:7; 8:12–13; 12:13–14; Proverbs 1:7; 2 Corinthians 5:9–11; 7:1; Philippians 2:12–13; and 1 Peter 1:13–17. What insights from these passages cause you to have a greater sense of awe and fear of God? How do you reconcile these passages with 1 John 4:18?

Recommended Reading

Thomas R. Schreiner & Bruce A. Ware ed., *Still Sovereign: Contemporary Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge, and Grace* (Baker, [1995] 2000)

R. T. Kendall, *Just Say Thanks: Cultivating Gratitude Deepens Intimacy With God* (Charisma House, 2005)

Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God* (WaterBrook, 2004)