

LIVING LIFE BACKWARD

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Bible study for the week starting July 28, 2024

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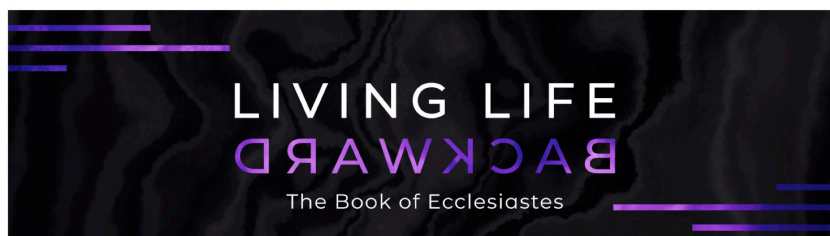
Many people have developed the “knack” for squeezing as much as possible (AMAP) into the time given them. We cram for tests. We burn the midnight oil to complete tasks to hit deadlines and so that we can be available to do more. What do you think causes AMAP? Where do you see AMAP in your life? What are the pros and cons of this tendency?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**. Solomon poetically lists 14 merisms (literary device – see back side for definition) to describe God-ordained purposes, matters, and activities. Which pairs catch your attention? Which ones do you like or dislike? Explain why. What other merismic pairs might you include if you were writing this to your contemporaries?
2. Read **Ecclesiastes 3:11** What does it mean that God has put eternity into people’s hearts? What evidence have you observed to support that He has indeed done this? Now read **Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**. How is the statement about eternity book-ended (i.e., what do the first and last verses of this short passage refer to)? Share some ways that you have been able to keep an eternal perspective while fulfilling the “toil” that God has called you to do?
3. Read **Ecclesiastes 3:14-15**. When you read these words, which of God’s works come to mind? A few of these can be found in the following verses: **Isaiah 40:8, Isaiah 51:6, Matthew 28:20, Lamentations 3:21-23, Psalm 118:1-4**. What would the Lord have us know about Him?
4. In **Isaiah 40:31** the Holy Spirit writes, “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength . . .” What does He mean by “waiting on the Lord”? Compare and contrast this advice with Jesus words in **Luke 24:49**. How does His advice apply to those or us caught up in AMAP?

PRAY

Pray for wisdom and availability that, in the midst of business in caring for your callings (jobs, families, neighbors, and other matters), you can find space to ponder the Eternal God. Pray that you lean not on your own understanding, but that in all your ways, acknowledging Jesus, ask for ears to hear and hearts to trust Him to direct your paths.



A Time for Everything

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

July 28, 2024 – Pastor Marvin St. Pierre

MERISM - Literary device or rhetorical term for a pair of contrasting words used to express totality or completeness.

A time for every activity under heaven means there is also time for NOT doing, or engaging, in a specific activity.

ETERNITY PERSPECTIVES

- Carl Sagan quote: sounds a bit like SOLOMON
- Blaise Pascal quote: there's SOMETHING more
- King David quote: GOD is the Something more
- Carl Boberg: It's JESUS !

Make GREEN choices.

“ TRUST in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own UNDERSTANDING . In all your ways ACKNOWLEDGE Him, and He will direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Jesus merism: “I am the ALPHA and the OMEGA ”

For next week, please read Ecclesiastes 4.