

**Shepherding the Wind
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
Shepherding Time**

- There is more than one way to think about time.
- Chronos time is the sequential understanding of time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years).
 - Kairos time is the seasonal way of understanding time.
 - Genesis 1:14-19 acknowledges and legitimizes both understandings of time.

- It is God's place to set the "times" of our lives.
- Job 14:5 – "Since his (a man's) days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass..."
 - Psalm 139:16 – "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in my book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them."

- It is our place to receive from God these times and steward them well.
- The fact that God is ultimately the one in control of life and death does not affect our ability to act freely as human beings and to live wisely or unwisely.
 - Outside of birth and death, human beings have the ability to use wisdom in carrying out all of the other activities in the poem.

- It is in the place between God's providence and our personal responsibility where faith in God's goodness is required.
- Because we cannot, due to our finite human nature, figure out the beginning from the end, we must place our trust in the Eternal One who has been, is, and will be.
 - "The mystery in human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for."
 - Studies show that those with a purpose live longer, sleep better and have a more robust immune system, lower stress levels and better cognitive function.