

< LIVING LIFE BACKWARD >

First Congregational Church
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**BUT ONE THING I DO: FORGETTING WHAT IS
BEHIND AND STRAINING TOWARD WHAT IS
AHEAD, I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN
THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME
HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS.**

PHILIPPIANS 3:13B-14 NIV

**UNDER THE SUN...
EVERYTHING IS MEANINGLESS**

**A PERSON CAN DO NOTHING BETTER THAN TO
EAT AND DRINK AND FIND SATISFACTION IN
THEIR OWN TOIL. THIS TOO, I SEE, IS FROM THE
HAND OF GOD,**

ECCLESIASTES 2:24 NIV

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**THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING,
AND A SEASON FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER THE HEAVENS: A TIME
TO BE BORN AND A TIME TO DIE,
A TIME TO PLANT AND A TIME TO UPROOT,
A TIME TO KILL AND A TIME TO HEAL,
A TIME TO TEAR DOWN AND A TIME TO BUILD,
A TIME TO WEEP AND A TIME TO LAUGH,
A TIME TO MOURN AND A TIME TO DANCE,**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8 NIV

**A TIME TO SCATTER STONES AND A TIME TO GATHER THEM,
A TIME TO EMBRACE AND A TIME TO REFRAIN FROM EMBRACING,
A TIME TO SEARCH AND A TIME TO GIVE UP,
A TIME TO KEEP AND A TIME TO THROW AWAY,
A TIME TO TEAR AND A TIME TO MEND,
A TIME TO BE SILENT AND A TIME TO SPEAK,
A TIME TO LOVE AND A TIME TO HATE,
A TIME FOR WAR AND A TIME FOR PEACE.**

**WHAT DO WORKERS GAIN FROM
THEIR TOIL?**

**UNDER THE SUN...
THERE IS NO GAIN.**

Weeds

**I HAVE SEEN THE BURDEN GOD HAS LAID ON THE
HUMAN RACE. HE HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL
IN ITS TIME. HE HAS ALSO SET ETERNITY IN THE
HUMAN HEART; YET NO ONE CAN FATHOM WHAT GOD
HAS DONE FROM BEGINNING TO END.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:10-11 NIV

**“FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS,
NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS,”
DECLARES THE LORD.**

**“AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH,
SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS
AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.**

ISAIAH 55:8-9 NIV

PIGGY BANK

**I KNOW THAT THERE IS NOTHING BETTER FOR PEOPLE
THAN TO BE HAPPY AND TO DO GOOD WHILE THEY
LIVE. THAT EACH OF THEM MAY EAT AND DRINK, AND
FIND SATISFACTION IN ALL THEIR TOIL—THIS IS THE
GIFT OF GOD.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13 NIV

**I KNOW THAT EVERYTHING GOD DOES WILL
ENDURE FOREVER; NOTHING CAN BE ADDED
TO IT AND NOTHING TAKEN FROM IT. GOD
DOES IT SO THAT PEOPLE WILL FEAR HIM.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:14 NIV

**UNDER THE SUN...
EVERYTHING IS MEANINGLESS**

UNDER THE SON...

ETERNITY STARTS TODAY

**DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT IN A RACE ALL THE RUNNERS RUN,
BUT ONLY ONE GETS THE PRIZE? RUN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO
GET THE PRIZE. EVERYONE WHO COMPETES IN THE GAMES
GOES INTO STRICT TRAINING. THEY DO IT TO GET A CROWN
THAT WILL NOT LAST, BUT WE DO IT TO GET A CROWN THAT
WILL LAST FOREVER.**

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25 NIV

**WHATEVER IS HAS ALREADY BEEN,
AND WHAT WILL BE HAS BEEN BEFORE;
AND GOD WILL CALL THE PAST TO ACCOUNT.
ECCLESIASTES 3:15 NIV**

**WHAT HAS BEEN WILL BE AGAIN,
WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WILL BE DONE AGAIN;
THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.
ECCLESIASTES 1:9 NIV**

**AND I SAW SOMETHING ELSE UNDER THE SUN:
IN THE PLACE OF JUDGMENT—WICKEDNESS WAS THERE,
IN THE PLACE OF JUSTICE—WICKEDNESS WAS THERE.
I SAID TO MYSELF, “GOD WILL BRING INTO JUDGMENT BOTH
THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED, FOR THERE WILL BE A
TIME FOR EVERY ACTIVITY, A TIME TO JUDGE EVERY DEED.”**

ECCLESIASTES 3:16-17 NIV

JUDGEMENT BRINGS: COMFORT & CHALLENGE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST TAKE AWAY FROM THE LIST OF ACTIVITIES “UNDER THE SUN”? HOW CAN YOU MAKE AN ETERNAL IMPACT THROUGH THOSE SEASONS? (VERSE 1-8)**
- 2. WHAT IS ONE “GIFT OF GOD” THAT YOU EXPERIENCE IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE? SOMETHING GOOD THAT BRINGS YOU JOY? (VERSE 12)**
- 3. JESUS COMPLETED THE ENDURING WORK OF GOD ON THE CROSS FOR YOU AND I. HOW DOES THAT POWERFUL TRUTH ADD MEANING TO YOUR LIFE?**
- 4. THERE WILL COME A TIME FOR JUDGMENT. WHAT DIFFERENCE COULD THAT TRUTH MAKE TO THE WORRIES YOU HAVE?**

