



# Ecclesiastes: *The Vanity of Life Under the Sun*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

## Introduction

### A poem about life under the sun

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:2-5**

- ❖ Hebrews 9:27—it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:6-8**

- ❖ Job 2:13—they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great
- ❖ John 15:19—if you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you

### What's the meaning of it all!?

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:9**

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:10-11**

### 1. God has made everything beautiful in its time

(1) God is sovereign over everything!

- ❖ Proverbs 16:4—**The Lord has made everything for its purpose**, even the wicked for the day of trouble.
- ❖ Proverbs 16:33—The lot is cast into the lap, but its **every decision is from the LORD**.
- ❖ Isaiah 45:7—I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, **I am the Lord, who does all these things**.

(2) God works everything for his own glory and our good.

- ❖ Isaiah 48:9-11—"For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another."
- ❖ Romans 8:28—And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose

(3) God does all this in HIS time

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- ❖ Romans 5:6—*For while we were still weak, **at the right time** Christ died for the ungodly*
- ❖ Galatians 4:4-7—**But when the fullness of time had come**, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

## 2. God has put eternity into man's heart

- ❖ Ecclesiastes 1:2—...*vanity of vanities! All is vanity*
- ❖ Psalm 16:11—*in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore*
- ❖ John 14:6—I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me

## 3. God doesn't tell you everything

- ❖ Revelation 21:3-4—*Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away*

## How then shall we live?

### 1. Enjoy God's good gifts under the sun

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:12-13**

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 10:31—*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*

### 2. Take comfort

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:14-15**

- ❖ Ecclesiastes 1:11—*There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after*
- ❖ Ecclesiastes 2:16—*For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten*
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:58—*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain*