

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“From Here To Eternity”

Eccl. 3:9-15

April 19, 2020

Ecc1 3:1-8

1 There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven —

2 A time to give birth and a time to die;

A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.

3 A time to kill and a time to heal;

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

4 A time to weep and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

5 A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;

A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

6 A time to search and a time to give up as lost;

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

7 A time to tear apart and a time to sew together;

A time to be silent and a time to speak.

8 A time to love and a time to hate;

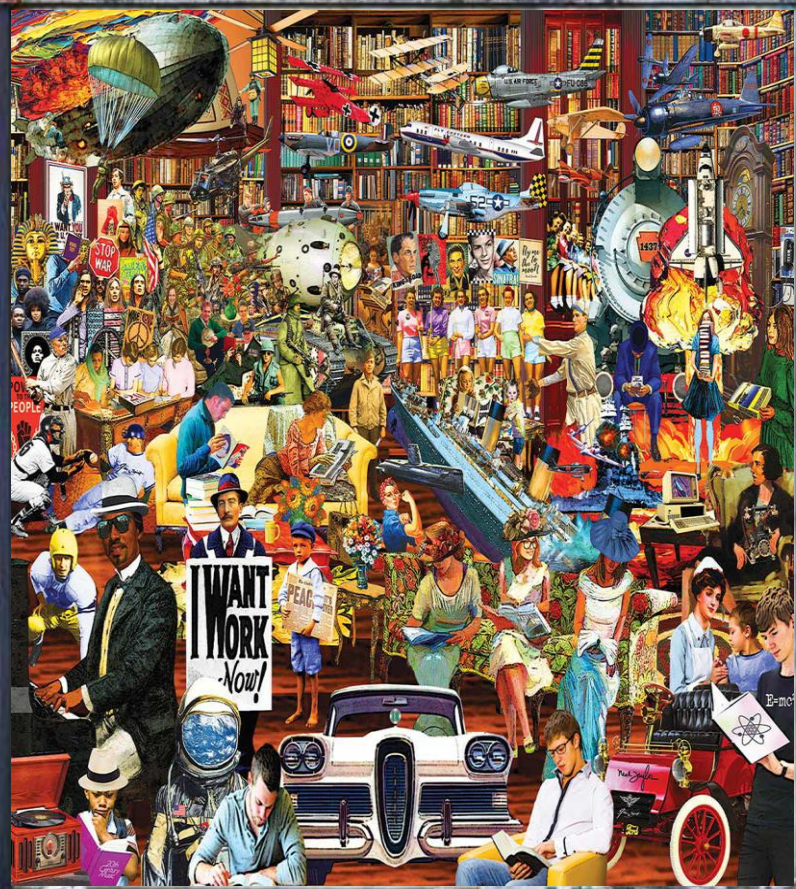
A time for war and a time for peace.













Ecc1 3:9-15

9 What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils?

10 I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves.

11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime;

13 moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor — it is the gift of God.

14 I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.

15 That which is has been already and that which will be has already been, for God seeks what has passed by.

9 What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils?

Ecc1 1:3

3 What advantage does man have in all his work

Which he does under the sun?

Ecc1 2:11

11 Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

- **vss. 1-8** - all events are out of man's power.
- **vs. 9** - all man's labor, without God, is unprofitable, and insufficient to make him fulfilled and satisfied.
- Man is incapable of finding and/or infusing any purpose and meaning into his work and life. Only an all wise God can do that.
- That is why God is in control and man isn't. Man cannot fix this broken world.
- The most man can get out of his labor are 2 things:
 1. "make a living"
 2. temporal accomplishment.

Ecc1 3:9-15

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***10 I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men
with which to occupy themselves.***

Ecc1 1:13-14

13 It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with.

14 I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.

- “task”- עֵיִן - inyan – employment or business in travail (laborious effort, drudgery, stress).

Gen 3:17-19

17 Cursed is the ground because of you;

In toil you will eat of it

All the days of your life.

18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;

And you will eat the plants of the field;

19 By the sweat of your face

You will eat bread,

- Man cannot get beyond the curse that God has placed on him.
- So it takes a God Who is in control of all things to insure there is a higher purpose in work and life than just “gutting out a living.”

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- **“He has made everything. . .”** All the things said in verses 1-8. Here is a definitive statement on the sovereignty of God.
- **“appropriate”** - יָפֵה yapheh—proper, appropriate, beautiful.
- **“in its time”** - God, Who is the creator and sustainer of the universe, in His infinite wisdom has designed “on His canvas” in eternity past, when, where and to what degree everything will take place.
- God makes everything appropriate in its time, including your loss, your hospital experience, your failures, your brokenness, your battles, your fragmented dreams, your heartache, your illness. Without Him, life is purposeless and profitless, miserable and meaningless. With Him, it will ultimately all make perfect sense.





*Lord, of the days that are left to me,
I give them to Your hand;
Take me and break me and mold me to
The pattern You have planned.*

11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

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- **Ponder this:** What attributes must God possess to be able to not only draw a plan up in all its complexity, but to also execute it with such remarkable precision?

“set eternity in their heart”

- “Humans are bound by time, but they are wired for eternity.”
- God has placed a big question mark deep in every man’s soul.
- Every man knows there has to be more than just this life. Man has a desire to know about what happens following death.
- Man can either repress those thoughts (Rom. 1:18) or he can search for meaning beyond this life.
- Anthropological evidence suggests that every culture has a God-given, innate sense of the eternal—that this world is not all there is.
- Look at the pyramids in Egypt. It required the efforts of one hundred thousand workers, forty years to build just one of the great pyramids. Why so much effort? Why would somebody put that amount of emphasis on a tomb—on the afterlife? The answer is, the Egyptians understood full well that they would spend a lot more time in the afterlife than they would spend in this life.
- We all long to know the eternal significance of what we do.

“ . . . yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.”

- Man may ponder eternity, which may lead him to Christ, but he will never be able to discover God's eternal plan and purposes for all He has done in eternity past or all He will do in eternity future.

Deut 29:29

29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

- It is a blessing to not know everything about God's plan. It would overwhelm us.

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- Here is how we are to respond to the sovereignty of God:

1. Rejoice.

- If the all-wise omniscient God is sovereignly in control of all, and He is causing all things to work together for my good, then my logical response is to rejoice.

Rom 8:28

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- Good things.
- Bad things.
- Neutral things.
- Persecution.
- Suffering.
- Trials.
- Temptation.
- Even our sin as it advances us in our spiritual growth.

Phil 4:4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Phil 3:1

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.

1 Thess 5:16

16 Rejoice always;

1 Peter 1:6

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

1 Peter 4:13

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

Rom 12:15

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

- I can rejoice in all things because I know that behind them God is infusing meaning and purpose into them.
- God has “gone public” with His painting and now it is time for us to admire, praise, honor, and rejoice in the work that He has done.
- That does not mean I don’t weep with those who weep and show empathy toward those in sadness, mourning, and crisis.
- I must walk a fine line and balance my reactions in all of life’s situations.

2. Do good in one's lifetime.

- Walking in the sovereignty of God frees me to focus on others and not on myself - helping the needy, encouraging the discouraged, ministering to the sick, and witnessing to the lost.
- People who are in search of meaning and purpose in life are in general self-centered. And rightfully so, if this life is all there is – “then let’s keep dancing, let’s break out the booze and have a ball . . . If that’s all there is.”
- Believers on the other hand are to be characterized with contentment with a sovereign God.
- “We are where we need to be and learning what we need to learn. Stay the course because the things we experience today will lead us to where He needs us to be tomorrow.” – Ron Ash
- “Don’t wish your life away.” “When such and such happens, then I will . . . *or*, If only so and so would do this, then I would do that . . . *or*, I would be happy if . . . *or*, I will be satisfied when . . .”

****The challenge for each of us every day is to find things to rejoice about and find some good things to do—and then to do both.**

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- Here are 2 gifts God has given to man:

1. Enjoy a meal.

- It is a gift from God to enjoy a meal by giving thanks and glorifying God for it. (I Cor. 10:31)

Acts 2:46-47

46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people.

2. Enjoy your work.

- It is also a gift from God to enjoy your work and glorify God for it.

Eph 6:5-8

5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;

6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord,

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- Once the Fall happened, everything is short-lived. Nothing in this world has a shelf life of any significance. Everything in this world is disposable.
- However, what God does is eternal.
- If we are connected to God then our lives will have eternal significance.
- That right there solves the problem Solomon had in chapters 1 & 2 – no lasting significance – everything is temporal and lost forever.
- A relationship with God brings meaning and purpose because those are both connected to eternity.
- You don't have a chance to live a meaningful life, unless you are connected to the God of eternity. Why? Because you are searching for something eternal among that which is temporary.
- You cannot add to God's work in eternity and you cannot take away from it. It cannot be improved. Some think they can.

God is eternal and His work is eternal:

- **God the Father is eternal.**

Ps 90:2

2 Before the mountains were born

Or You gave birth to the earth and the world,

Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

- **Jesus is eternal.**

Heb 13:8

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- **The Holy Spirit is eternal.**

John 14:16-17

16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17 that is the Spirit of truth,

- **Salvation is eternal**

Heb 9:12

12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Ps 111:3

3 Splendid and majestic is His work,
And His righteousness endures forever.

- **Sanctification is eternal.**

Heb 10:14

14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

- **Glorification is eternal.**

2 John 1-2

1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth,

2 for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

- **The Bible is eternal.**

Isa 40:8

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.

- **Our future home is eternal.**

Ps 23:6

6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- **Our future life is eternal.**

Rev 22:5

5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

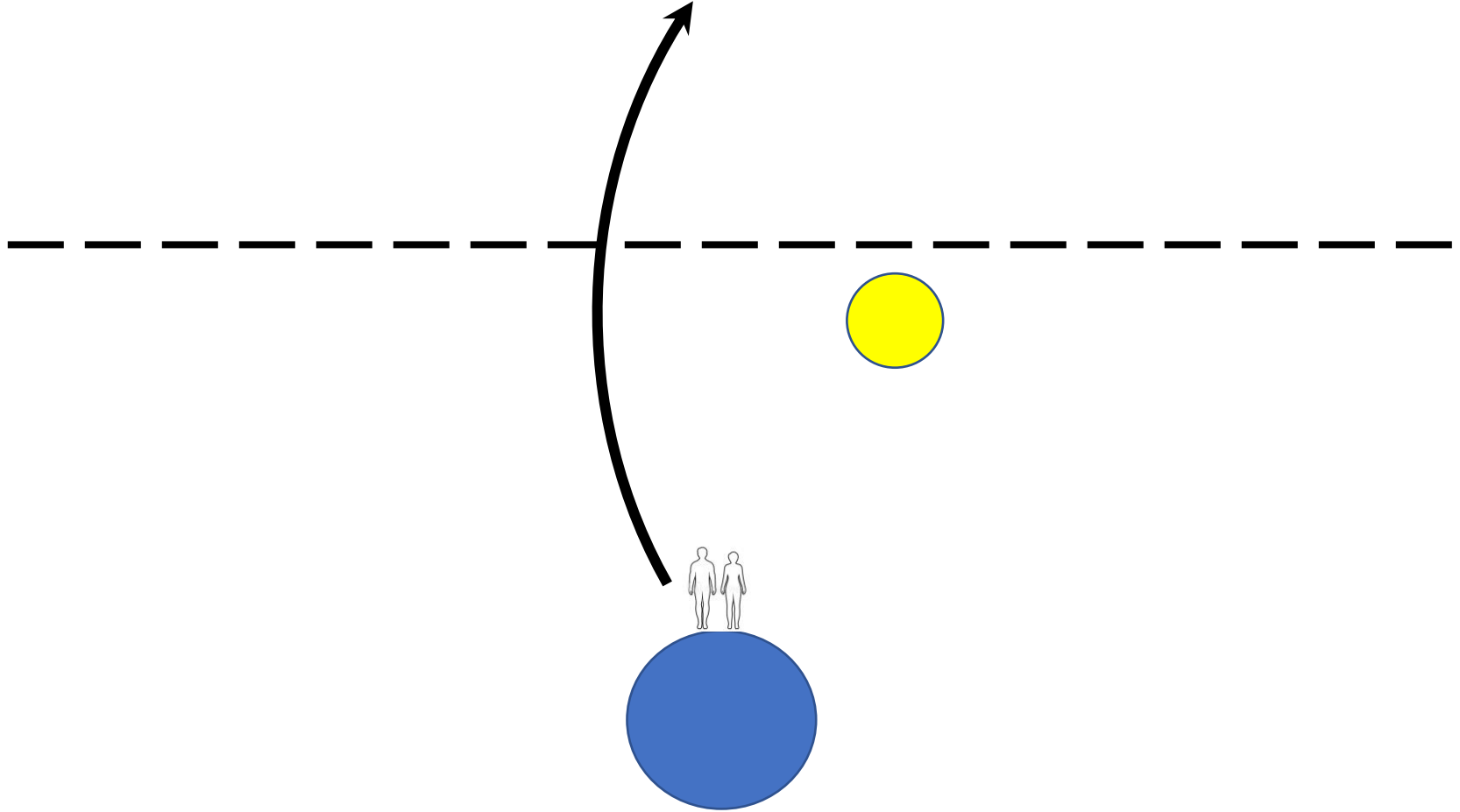
Life has no meaning and purpose “under the sun”(1:1-2:23)

└ God must be a part of life. (2:24-26)

└ God’s sovereignty infuses purpose into life. (3:1-8)

└ Man must connect with an eternal God. (3:9-15)

eternity **GOD** eternity



- The fact that a man or woman cannot change what God has purposed, designed, or brought should generate a proper fear of God.
- Until a man recognizes and trusts the superior wisdom of God, he has not begun to fear God.
- God wants us to stand in awe of who He is and all that He is.

**No thought is worth thinking
that is not the thought of God.**

**No sight is worth seeing
unless it is seen through His eyes.**

**No breath is worth breathing
without thanks to the One
whose very breath it is.**

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- If God's sovereign work remains forever, and if the past, the present, and the future reveal nothing new, then it is man's responsibility to see what God has done, and to fear Him.
- God therefore seeks to bring before man over and over that which He has done in the past because it will not change today or in the future.
- God took the realities of this life "under the sun" and kept bringing them back to Solomon until he finally came to fear God.

A college professor once told his class,
“You can take this class in one of two ways.
You can take it seriously, or you can take it over.”