

Repentance Tabernacle Church

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A Right Time For Everything!

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; 12:13-14

When Solomon became king, he asked God for wisdom (2 Chronicles 1:7-12), and he became the wisest man in the world (1 Kings 4:29-34). He studied, taught, judged, and wrote. Kings and leaders from other nations came to Jerusalem to learn from him. But with all his practical insight on life, Solomon failed to heed his own advice, and he began a downward spiral. **Near the end of his life, Solomon looked back with an attitude of humility and repentance.** He took stock of his life, hoping to spare us the bitterness of learning through personal experience that everything apart from God is empty, hollow, and meaningless.

Ecclesiastes chapter 3, shows everything there is a <u>season</u>, and a time to every purpose under heaven. <u>Mankind does not control the world or time; God does</u>. God steers us into the future with His hand and He is absolutely in control of all events. The different types of things happening in verses 1-8 are divine by God, which is brought to pass according to God's divine plan. These events enter our lives at will, and we seem helpless to control their arrival and departure. It is a thoughtful exploration of God's patterns at work in our lives.

All believers face trials when they let their light shine into the darkness. Therefore, we must accept trials as part of the refining process that burns away impurities, preparing us to meet Christ. Through our struggles, and persecutions strengthen our faith and make us useful to God. Mankind who are continuously troubled by events under the sun is refusing to lift their eyes up towards the Creator. Mankind who recognizes their tragic limitations are more open to the message of God's supreme control.

Solomon concluded that certain paths in life lead to emptiness. Even though this profound book also helps us discover true purpose in life. Such wisdom can spare us from the emptiness that results from a life without God. Therefore, people will not find meaning in life through knowledge, money, pleasure, work, or popularity. True satisfaction comes from knowing that what we are going through in this life will only last for a season and it is part of God's purpose for our life.

Solomon's point out that God has a plan for all people. Although we may face many problems that seem to contradict our plans, these should not be barriers to believing in Him, but rather opportunities to discover that, without God, life's problems have no lasting solutions.

Timing is important. All the experiences listed in verses 1-8 are appropriate at certain times. **The secret to peace with God is to discover, accept, and appreciate God's perfect timing**. The danger is to doubt or resent God's timing. This can <u>lead to despair, rebellion</u>, or <u>moving ahead</u> without his advice.

Solomon shows us that everything we go through is for a season, but we should enjoy life, but this does not exempt us from obeying God's commands. All people will have to stand before God and be judged for what they have done in this life. We will not be able to use life's inequities as an excuse for failing to live a godly life. We need to recognize that human effort apart from God is futile; put God first—now; and realize that God will judge every person's life, whether good or evil.

Also, Paul tells us, "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel" (Romans 2:16), "bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the heart" (1 Corinthians 4:5), a day when every deed and thought will be judged by the One who judges in righteousness and truth.

People of God "Fear God, and keep his commandments" as we navigate through this Christian journey keep in mind what you are going through under the sun it is just for a season and God is in control!