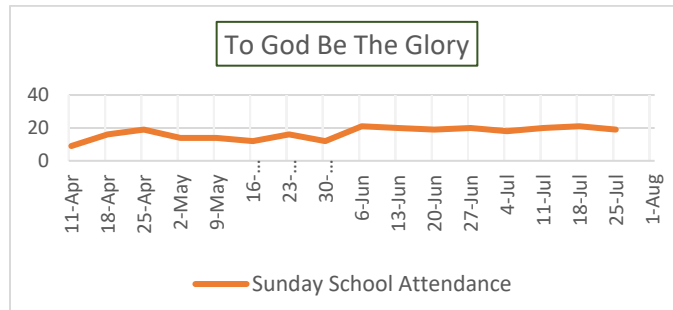


## Welcome and Announcements

Please join us in-person for 10:00 am Sunday School.

Last week's Sunday School attendance = 19



## Introduction

Last week we began a new unit of study from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. From the opening “*all is vanity*” of 1:2 to the “*conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments*” of 12:13, we have the reflections of Solomon about the meaning of life and the vanity of human toil apart from God. Our focal passage for this week is the very familiar “*a time to...*” discourse of chapter 3 where Solomon enumerates the various seasons of our lives.

## Time Moves On

The lyrics of the 60's folk song “Turn, Turn, Turn” popularized by Pete Seeger and The Byrds consist primarily of our focal passage for this week and the tune comes to mind whenever I read these verses. Time is a popular topic of songs, books, movies, and conversations. Many of these deal with the passing of time and hastening of years as we traverse the seasons of life. Athletic contests are governed by a time-clock. Science-fiction works often fantasize about time-travel. Tests in school are timed. Our work days revolve around a time-clock. Even our Sunday School and Worship services start and end according to time. Time governs much of our lives and we generally never seem to have enough of it. There are study courses related to time-management, which teach us ways to be more efficient in our use of time; but bottom-line time moves only one way and here in this world we each have a finite amount of it.

## What The Bible Tells Us About Time

<sup>22</sup>While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. **Genesis 8:22**

God established time and seasons and has gifted us with a specific allotment.

<sup>4</sup>LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure (extent) of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am (how brief my time here is). <sup>5</sup>Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age (lifetime) is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity (a vapor or breath). **Psalms 39:4-5**

<sup>14</sup>Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. **James 4:14**

<sup>12</sup>*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psalm 90:12*  
Our time on this earth is precious and fleeting, likened to the morning fog, or vapor, which quickly vanishes with the rising sun. May we wisely use our time here to honor God in how we live and serve Him.

### **Conclusion**

Whether in death at the end of our days or if Jesus returns before then, our time on this earth will one day run out and we'll stand before our Judge. At that time, the most critical thing is whether one has accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord. If you have not done this, "*behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation*" (2 Corinthians 6:2b). For with Jesus, who is "*the same yesterday, and today, and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8), time is eternal. "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). For those that are already Christians, we are to "*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without (non-Christians), redeeming the time (making the most of every opportunity to tell them about Jesus)*" (Colossians 4:5).