

BUILDING WITHOUT A BLUEPRINT

ECCLESIASTES 3

- Though it's out of our control, God orders EVERYTHING in our lives at just the right TIME. Ecc 3:1-9
 - God's timing is WISE. Ecc 3:10-11a
 - God's timing is MYSTERIOUS. Ecc 3:11b
- We must refuse to let what we cannot KNOW destroy what we can ENJOY. Ecc 3:12-13
- Because we are MORTAL we must joyfully ENTRUST our lives to the immortal JUDGE. Ecc 3:14-22

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read the poem of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. What are some pivotal times in your life this brings to mind? How does verse 1 put those events into perspective?
2. Is God's sovereignty over your life comforting to you or scary to you? Why? (see Psalm 139:16; Eph 1:11; Rom 8:28)
3. What aspects of your life cause you to struggle with God's sovereignty and His timing?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 3:11. What does it mean that "He has made everything beautiful in its time."? Can you think of any examples from your own life of God doing this?
5. What tension is found in the second half of 3:11? How does this tension push you to trust God more deeply?
6. Nathanael said that "Part of growing up is learning to grow small." What does this mean? How can we practically cultivate this in our lives? (see Job 42:2-6; John 3:30; Matt 18:2-5; Phil 2:3-11)
7. Read Ecclesiastes 3:12-13. In your life, how are you tempted to "let what you cannot know destroy what you can enjoy"? Where are you tempted to let worry about tomorrow rob you from today's joys? What advice does Ecclesiastes and the rest of the Bible give (Matt 6:25-34; Phil 4:4,6-7; 1 Tim 1:4-5)? What area of your life is God calling you to find joy in?
8. Read Ecclesiastes 3:17. How is the impending judgement of God good news? How is it especially good news in light of God's grace in Christ (Gal 4:4-5; Rom 5:6)?

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle

LIVING LIFE
DRAWN