

**“The Times of Our Lives”**  
Ecclesiastes 3  
New Hope Community Church  
February 18th, 2018

**Life Group Meeting**  
Ecclesiastes 3

**A. Events That Make Up A Lifetime** (1-10)

1. Life under the sun is necessarily comprised of many **events** (1)
  - God is **sovereign** in the apportioning of time
  - Man is severely warned against **ignoring** this truth (Ja 4:13)
2. There are many events in life we do not readily **choose** (2-8)

▪ ___ Giving birth	___ Dying
▪ ___ Planting	___ Uprooting
▪ ___ Killing	___ Healing
▪ ___ Tearing down	___ Building up
▪ ___ Weeping	___ Laughing
▪ ___ Mourning	___ Dancing
▪ ___ Throwing stones	___ Gathering stones
▪ ___ Embracing	___ Shunning
▪ ___ Searching	___ Giving up as lost
▪ ___ Keeping	___ Throwing away
▪ ___ Tearing apart	___ Sewing together
▪ ___ Being silent	___ Speaking
▪ ___ Loving	___ Hating
▪ ___ Waring	___ Being at peace
3. In light of uncontrollable events, Solomon: **What’s the use?**
  - He searches to find the **value** in all of this (9)
  - He acknowledges the responsibility as **God given** (10)

**B. Events That Accomplish God’s Purpose** (11-15)

1. In God’s time, He accomplishes all things in **beauty** (11)
  - Let us remember God’s purpose is to display His **glory**
  - Let us gain confidence from the **creation** account (Gn 1:2)
  - Let us acknowledge our **finite** & His infinite understanding
2. In God’s plan, He designed us for time beyond the **grave**
  - There is a longing in our hearts for ultimate **fulfillment**
  - This fulfillment can only be satisfied in our **Creator**
3. In God’s plan, He desires for us to **enjoy** the goodness of life
4. In God’s plan, He is **sovereign** over time & history (14,15)
  - My response must be to live in **reverence** of Him
  - My admission must be that God cannot be **overruled** (15)
  - My realization is that I will give an **account** to my Creator

**Reflection**

God has established according to His infinite wisdom and purpose a balance of blessing and calamity to leave us —

- A witness that can lead us to Him
- A need that can only be fulfilled by Him
- A future that can only be secure in Him

**QUESTIONS**

1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-10
2. Solomon’s list of 28 life events seems to be filled with opposites. What do you think he means by the statement “there is a time” for each of these?
3. Why do you think Solomon asks in verse 9 - “what profit is there for a worker in that which he toils”?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 3:11-15
5. In light of some of the very difficult things on this list, how can it be said that God has made everything beautiful in its time?
6. What does it mean that God has set eternity in our hearts? How do you think this truth ties in with this list of 28 things - many of which bring great sorrow and heartache?
7. How do you think vs 12 & 13 fit into Solomon’s discussion?
8. In v 15, one way to understand the statement “God seeks what has passed by” is that we all will give an account to God of how we have lived life. How much thought do you give to this? Does this reality have any real effect in shaping your life?
9. John Piper has coined the phrase: ‘God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him’. Does this statement help at all with this whole process of dealing with the times of our lives that include so many difficult and painful things?
10. Pray for one another about how we approach this matter of times and seasons in our lives, and the various events that we must face in those different seasons. Especially pray for those who may be in a very difficult season.