

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Ecclesiastes

BIBLE TEXT | ECCLESIASTES 3:9-15

9 What gain has the worker from his toil?

10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live;

13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

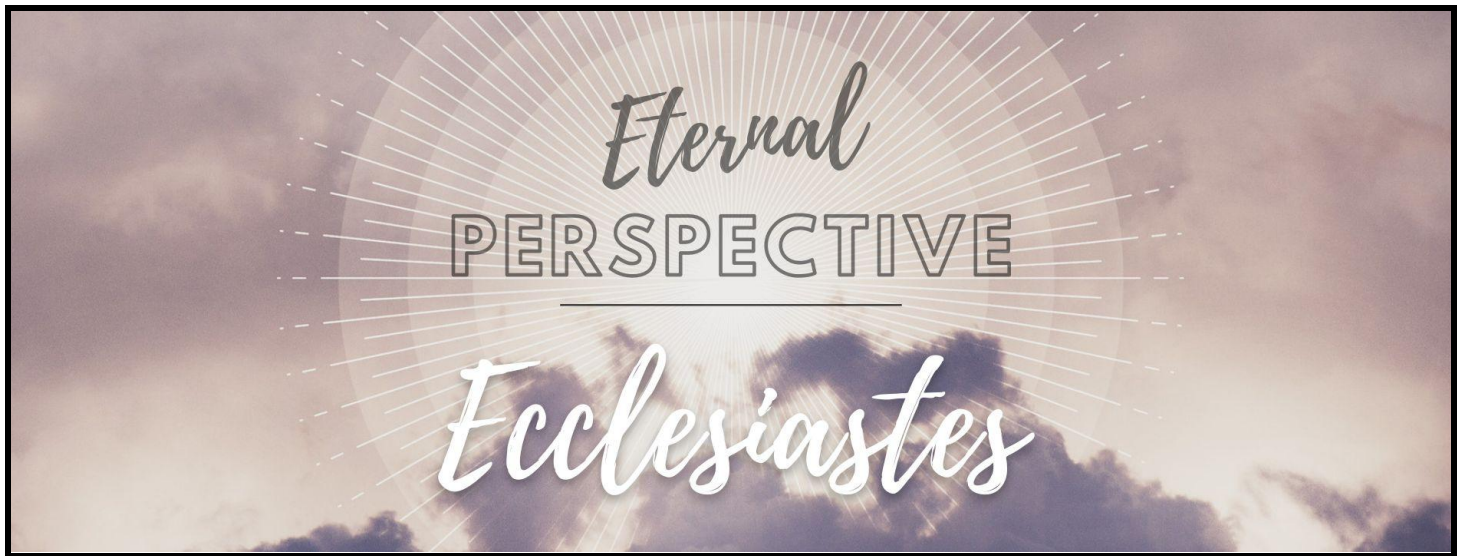
15 That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

DEVOTIONAL FOR ECCLESIASTES 3:9-15

AUTHOR: JENNIFER MCKIBBEN

As humans we tend to want an answer for everything that happens in our lives. As we read Ecclesiastes 3:9-15 we see that in this life we will not understand everything. We will have trials, hardships, and heartbreak. God wants us to enjoy the life that He has given us. We see that being joyful, doing good, and taking pleasure in our work is good. Our focus should be on God allowing His will to lead our lives.

Let us enjoy the life God has given us. Just as every season comes from God, so does our ability to enjoy our work. We are to walk in obedience to God; the Bible says that in doing so it is the most rewarding way to live. Apart from Christ we are like the world. To find true contentment in this life we will need to turn our love of worldly things into a love for God. We are to prioritize God above all other people, things, and possessions. "As for the rich in the present age, charge them not to be haughty, not to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly



provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share" (1 Timothy 6:17-18). Possessions will never satisfy that longing we have. When we allow God to work in our lives, we can overcome this longing to be like the world and shift our focus to our eternal life.

Looking at the second half of the passage, God has given everyone a desire for eternity. In our world, we can often search for meaning and purpose that only satisfies us in the here and now. Both believer and non-believer can make the most of this life, but the non-believer is doing this for nothing. God has called us to walk in obedience, fearing God, who is superior to us in every way. God has done everything perfectly in His time. God's purpose is perfect, to fear God is to know, trust, honor, and obey Him. God's control of time is a comfort for Christians because we know God has kept his promise to send Christ, and Christ will return again at His perfect timing. "Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and then let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:28-29).

Our responsibility is to have a joyful approach to this life and do good. We each have different experiences and trials. Are we allowing God to use them for our good and His glory? I believe that as we have these experiences and trials in our lives so God can use them to transform our lives. We do not know what the future holds, but we can be joyful in the present. We may have more trial and tribulation in this life than we could ever expect, but God never intended for us to carry it alone. He wants us to fully give all things to Him. He is our strength at all times, providing a peace and joy that surpasses all worldly understanding. May we be set apart for others to see Jesus through our everyday lives.

Questions:

1. The Lord sees you in your suffering. Are you giving your suffering to the Lord?
2. Where in your life do you need to trust God and allow Him to work in your life?.
3. Does your will align with God's will for your life? Pray about this and share with your Journey Group or other biblical community..