
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

A Time for Everything

Sunday, September 7, 2025
Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

A Time for Everything

- ¹ For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.
- ² A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant and a time to harvest.
- ³ A time to kill and a time to heal.
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
- ⁴ A time to cry and a time to laugh.
A time to grieve and a time to dance.
- ⁵ A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.
A time to embrace and a time to turn away.
- ⁶ A time to search and a time to quit searching.
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
- ⁷ A time to tear and a time to mend.
A time to be quiet and a time to speak.
- ⁸ A time to love and a time to hate.
A time for war and a time for peace.

⁹What do people really get for all their hard work? ¹⁰I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. ¹¹Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. ¹²So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. ¹³And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.

¹⁴And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God's purpose is that people should fear him. ¹⁵What is happening now has happened before, and what will happen in the future has happened before, because God makes the same things happen over and over again. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15, NLT)

God is _____ at work in this world – in every _____; in every _____; and in every _____.

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. (Psalm 139:16, NLT)

²⁴ “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples,
²⁵ and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.
²⁶ From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

²⁷ “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ For in him we live and move and exist. (Acts 17:24-28, NLT)

We will never be able to _____ the entirety of God’s work while we are _____.

Our purpose is to _____ Him; to _____ Him; and to _____ Him with a thankful heart for the _____ God has given us.

In Ecclesiastes 7, Solomon gives this wise insight:

¹ A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume.

And the day you die is better than the day you are born.

² Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties.

After all, everyone dies—

so the living should take this to heart.

³ Sorrow is better than laughter,

for sadness has a refining influence on us.

⁴ A wise person thinks a lot about death,

while a fool thinks only about having a good time. (Ecclesiastes 7:1-4, NLT)

Solomon reflects the teaching we see throughout the Bible that our time on earth will end in death – unless the Lord returns first.

Because of that truth, Solomon says that it would be wise to keep our minds focused on the reality of death instead of always seeking to have a good time. Why?

1. Our _____ will not be _____ until we are dead. While alive, we are capable of

**making decisions that could _____ our
good name in a moment's time.**

Mark 14:1-11....Mary of Bethany anointed the Lord Jesus with expensive perfume, and its fragrance filled the house. Jesus told her that her name would be honored throughout the world, and it is. On the other hand, Judas sold the Lord Jesus into the hands of the enemy; and his name is generally despised. When Judas was born, he was given the good name "Judah", which means "praise". It belonged to the royal tribe in Israel. By the time Judas died, he had turned that honorable name into something shameful. (Warren Wiersbe, *Be Satisfied*, pp. 83-86)

The day of our birth clogged our souls with the burden of the flesh, but the day of our death will set them at liberty from that burden. (Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible.)

**2. As much as we do not like _____ times,
God uses those times to help us grow in our
_____ on Him and in our _____
of Him.**

²Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. (James 1:2-4, NLT)

**Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.**
(Psalm 139:23-24, NLT)

**Teach us to realize the brevity of life,
so that we may grow in wisdom.**
(Psalm 90:12, NLT)