



Blackfoot

Church of Christ

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In His Time

By Jeff Asher

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-10).

These verses are among those most quoted from the Preacher. They are certainly beautiful, rhythmic, and they appeal to the heart. However, do we really grasp what the preacher is saying?

These verses transition from the previous chapters where the Preacher’s main thought has been the futility of “life under the sun” (1:3, 14; 2:11, 17-23). However, upon reading these verses one can not be anything but hopeful. The reason for that is that God is now in the picture. We are no longer under the sun, but “under the heaven” (3:1, 11, 14-15).

Ecclesiastes certainly confirms that life is not fair. Bad things happen to good people (9:11), and sometimes the wicked prosper (Ecclesiastes 8:14). We live

in a world that is broken by sin and as a result, sometimes the wicked bear rule (Proverbs 29:2), disease and death are every where affecting everyone, justice seems to fail (Ecclesiastes 8:11). Even if one manages to be righteous and succeed in the world, it is altogether possible that he will leave his work for a fool, while he himself goes to the grave just as any beast (9:12; 4:14-16; 2:17-20; 3:19). This accounts for the Preacher's conclusion that life is like chasing the wind (1:14, 17; 2:11, 17). Again, that is discouraging, but only if God is not in the picture.

We can honestly say we do not know what tomorrow holds, yet we know Who holds tomorrow (Matthew 6:34; James 4:14-15). Therefore, we are able to understand that all things are "beautiful in His time," that is, according to God's purpose and plan. The world appears to be amok and out of control, but the man who is seeking and trusting God, following the yearnings of his heart in search of things eternal (3:10) knows that God is governing all things to accomplish his eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:10; Romans 8:18-28).

What is a man to do in a world where he cannot see the outcomes, a universe where God's plans are from eternity and unto the end of the ages? The Preacher says, "I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God." Live right, enjoy what life brings as much as possible and leave the rest to the Almighty. He will bring every work into judgment, He will require of the wicked what is right and He will reward the righteous accordingly (Ecclesiastes 3:15-17; 1:9).

Now we can understand, the phrase "there is a time." The Preacher is talking about the way that God has ordered the universe. He has a purpose, a will and it will be observed, His judgment will be rendered (Ecclesiastes 3:18-20). God assures us that He will settle all the accounts (12:13-14). I do not need to fret and be anxious about God fulfilling His promise or worrying about the future and the past. I need to wisely use what little time and strength I have to accomplish His purpose for me and find the joy that is to be had by living a righteous life before Him (Ecclesiastes 3:22).

How Much Does Heaven Mean to Us

By Gary Henry

“Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory . . .” (1 Peter 1:8).

HEAVEN OUGHT TO BE OUR MOST JOYOUS THOUGHT. We do not see our Lord right now, but we believe that someday we shall see Him and remain in His perfect presence forever. In that hope, we “rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”

But in practical, everyday terms, does heaven really mean as much to us as we say it does? We are, after all, very busy with the details of living in the here and now, and since we’ve grown accustomed to the idea of going to heaven, many of us may be guilty of taking it for granted. If we’re honest, we may have to admit that the concept of heaven has grown stale and the joy of thinking about it has disappeared. But how can we do that? How can we possibly have a casual attitude about heaven?

The first thing that should be said is that we need to make sure we are indeed going to heaven. Paul wrote, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5), and we need to make a practice of doing that on a fairly regular basis.

But second, we need to acquire the habit of thinking about heaven more often. One way to do that is to engage in the old-fashioned discipline of “counting our blessings,” consciously and deliberately enumerating to ourselves the things that we have to be thankful for. When we “count our blessings,” heaven will always be at the top of the list. And with that list in hand, we are then ready to meditate on this great blessing, to think about it, and, yes, even daydream about it! If we don’t find ourselves daydreaming about heaven, at least now and then, it really should cause us to question whether it means as much to us as we say it does.

But not only should we cherish the thought of heaven; I believe that we should show that we cherish it. It should come out in our conversation, our demeanor, our tone of voice, and even our countenance. There is no denying that, as we grow older, our faces come to be a mirror of the contents of our hearts. So what do those who see your face every day know about your enthusiasms, the things that mean more to you than anything else in the world?

“When you speak of heaven, let your face light up. When you speak of hell — well, then your everyday face will do” (Charles Haddon Spurgeon).

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- David and Catherine are traveling in Georgia planning to return this week
- This being a Holiday week, we may have others traveling
- Angie Woodside is undergoing outpatient surgery tomorrow
- Tammy Woodward is suffering from the effects of cancerous brain tumor.
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) starts cancer treatment this week
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Next Sunday is our scheduled men's meeting

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<p><u>Today</u></p> <p>Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u></p> <p>Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward</p>
<p><u>Next Sunday</u></p> <p>Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p><u>Next Wednesday</u></p> <p>Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward</p>

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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