

A Time For Everything ■■■■■ (Eccl 3:1-11)

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 29 January 2022

Preacher: William HC

[0:00] Thank you, worship team for just those wonderful worship songs about time.

For those of you who I haven't met yet, my name is William. I'm one of the pastors here. Maybe this is a good time to wish you a happy new year.

[illegible]

And I wonder how you are planning to celebrate this coming new year. This is a long-term year, we're going to celebrate this coming new year. Maybe some of you have a banquet with the relatives' plan.

Maybe some of you wish you could be overseas right now. Or if you're in this time, I'm still in the home, or in other places, it's not good.

[1:14] So many of our plans have changed, haven't they? Even in this last week. Just as we thought things would get better with COVID, now we are under red light instead of red packets.

We are thinking now of red light. We are thinking of red light. We thought it was a long-term year. We thought it was a long-term year. We thought it was a long-term year, but it was a long-term year. And I don't know what struggles you're going through this week.

Maybe you're worrying about your children, whether they should go to school or uni. I don't know if you're worried about your children, whether they should go to school or uni.

Maybe you are stressed about what happens if someone here catches COVID here in church. Or if we're in the same way, we're in the same way, then we're in the same way.

And perhaps you've been wondering, oh, what bad timing. Or maybe you just think, when will all this time end? And it turns out that time is also on the mind of the teacher in one of the books of the Bible.

[2:23] In the Bible, in the Bible, we often often have a time. So as we begin a new year as a PCPC, I thought it would be timely to turn to the book of Ecclesiastes, this part of God's Word.

So as we begin a new year as a PCPC, I thought it would be timely to turn to the book of Ecclesiastes, this part of God's Word. So at the beginning of the book of Ecclesiastes, we also open this■■■, this book. Let's see how the time is going to look at the book of Ecclesiastes. So turn, if you can, with us to the book of Ecclesiastes in your Bible.

The 3rd of the book of Ecclesiastes, this part of the book of Ecclesiastes, this part of the book of Ecclesiastes. And I'll give you a moment to bring it up on your phones or at home. And perhaps if you are ready, we could perhaps read it together, maybe the first 11 verses of chapter 3.

If you are on your phone or at home, you can read the book of Ecclesiastes. Then we'll open the book of Ecclesiastes, this part of the book of Ecclesiastes. Then we'll use the English language to read it together.

And yet it is not When the preacher looks carefully, he actually says Verse 11, everything was meaningless A chasing after the wind Nothing was gained under the sun And if this past year has felt a little bit like this for you Then you are not alone The Bible says life sometimes is frustrating So what will help us, PCBC, get through these uncertain times?

How will we make the most of our time?

How will we spend our time wisely this new year?

And so in our passage in chapter 3 I want to share from the teacher 4 timely reflections he has to help us So I have four points to what I want to share today And firstly, I want to share that from verses 1 to 8 That poem that we heard, the teacher reminds us that in God's world Time is not only to be measured, but to be appreciated And the next slide, this is one of the earliest copies of Ecclesiastes chapter 3

[12:37] I know it's hard to read, but don't worry, you don't need to read it to notice something In this earliest copy of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 Can you see actually how the word time, which is on the screen on your left, is marked off?

Compared to all the stuff that's been written before, here from chapter 3, the preacher stops complaining And I think appreciates the beauty of time And when we look at it in Chinese, notice how the poem, this poem that we read, it listed a whole range of contrast, right?

the teacher pauses and thinks, well, things still happened

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

[REDACTED]

This is a profound observation **[REDACTED]**. So I want us to notice the three other **[REDACTED]**.

Omicron Visa

For example Song said it this way, Covid allowed me time to pause and conclude there was more to life than stuff, jobs or next step in life.

He said he would like to trust the Lord in the past two years, in this situation, to allow him to be safe and safe to think of the life of God.

He saw how God made everything beautiful in time. So, when you see that the Lord in the past two years, it can be a beautiful thing.

[25:29] Another brother, Billy, we are already familiar with. He said, in the past two years, I found that in the past two years, he was allowing me to experience the love of Jesus.

So, he said, we love him because of God. Let's remind each other, amidst the struggles of life this year, God does bring beauty from our brokenness in his time.

Even in our difficult times, we can recognize that God can use these times to turn into the beauty of God.

The third point I want to see from the preacher is this, God has set eternity in our hearts. God has set eternity in our hearts.

We see this in verse 11 of what we just read. Just in the second half. In the first half, we have seen this in verse 11 of what we just read. And when you read that, this is a very powerful phrase, isn't it?

[26:35] And I think what this verse is doing, what teachers are saying is that He's actually kind of, He's alluding to a much earlier time, all the way back to the book of Genesis, to our first parents in chapter 3.

In chapter 3, 3, verse 11 says, "And the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil.' So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden." Yeah, so I want to just notice in this little phrase that echoes back to the Garden of Eden.

For example, in this verse, it says there's eternity set on our hearts. While our first parents, they had a desire to know everything and yearn for eternity, didn't they?

"And the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil.' So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden." And what we see in the verse before 11, in verse 10, it says there, that there's a burden, a task that God has laid on the human race.

In our translations, it says what it says, but in the original language, this phrase is literally, not the human race, but the children of Adam.

[28:09] "And the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil.' So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden." And what we see in the verse before 11, in verse 10, it says there, that there's a burden, a task that God has laid on the human race. In our translations, it says what it says, but in the original language, this phrase is literally, not the human race, but the children of Adam. "And the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil.' So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden." And what we see in the verse before 11, in verse 10, it says there, that there's a burden, a task that God has laid on the human race. In our translations, it says what it says, but in the original language, this phrase is literally, not the human race, but the children of Adam. "And the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil.' So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden." And what we see in the verse before 11, in verse 10, it says there, that there's a burden, a task that God has laid on the human race. In our translations, it says what it says, but in the original language, this phrase is literally, not the human race, but the children of Adam.

[30:21] "And the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil.' So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden." And what we see in the verse before 11, in verse 10, it says there, that there's a burden, a task that God has laid on the human race. In our translations, it says what it says, but in the original language, this phrase is literally, not the human race, but the children of Adam. "And the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil.' So the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden." And what we see in the verse before 11, in verse 10, it says there, that there's a burden, a task that God has laid on the human race. In our translations, it says what it says, but in the original language, this phrase is literally, not the human race, but the children of Adam.

And remember, because in His beautiful timing, we have seen Jesus. Let's do whatever we can in our time to help others know Him too.

Our Father in heaven, thank you for putting eternity into our hearts. Forgive us for chasing eternity in our house, or our career, or our children.

[39:15] Thank you that only Jesus Christ, who loved us and died for us, can fill our need for eternity in our hearts.

And we pray all these things in Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.