

Ecclesiastes IV
A Time to Every Purpose
Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

- IV. THE GOOD OF ALL THAT IS DONE (Ecclesiastes 3:12-14)
- a. There Is No Good In Them (Ecclesiastes 3:12)
 - i. In man himself (Matthew 19:17)
 - ii. Apart from God (none good or righteous) (Romans 3:10-12)
 - 1. Man apart from God cannot please God (Romans 8:8)
 - a. Because he is in the flesh
 - b. Because he is carnally minded (Romans 8:5-6, 7)
 - 2. Man apart from God has no desire to do the things of God (Romans 8:5)
 - a. Because they are foolishness to him (1 Corinthians 2:14a)
 - b. Because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14b)
 - c. Because he is dead (spiritually) in his trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13)
 - i. A man that is not saved (“born again”) cannot understand spiritual things, because he’s spirit is dead.
 - ii. It takes the operation from the Lord (Salvation) to quicken that spirit and make that individual alive unto spiritual matters. (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:9-15)
 - iii. Even creation itself is corrupted because of the fall of man (Romans 8:19-22)
 - b. To Do Good In His Life (Ecclesiastes 3:12b)
 - i. As we have noted earlier man apart from God has no desire to do the things of God, therefore, man apart from God has no real desire to do good. (Romans 3:12)

- ii. When man knows God then he has the mind to do the things of God (Romans 8:6, 9-11, 14; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16)
 - 1. He has been quickened (Ephesians 2:1)
 - 2. He (the saved man) can understand the things of God
 - 3. The saved man can judge spiritual matters (1 Corinthians 2:14-15)

- c. Every Man To Enjoy the Good of His Labour (Ecclesiastes 3:13)
 - i. It is of a truth that God has intended for man to enjoy the things that He has given him (Ecclesiastes 2:24; 1 Timothy 4:4-5)
 - ii. Yet it should be done in sobriety with the knowledge that it all comes from God and is a gift from Him (James 1:17)
 - 1. Variableness = Change, or Inconsistent
 - a. Our God is not one to change (Malachi 3:6)
 - b. He is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19)
 - 2. With the above in mind the Christian can live a life that is full of joy.
 - a. As Christians we need to always remember no matter what comes into our lives, it is from the Lord to make us better for Him.
 - b. The good things that He lets us enjoy are gifts from Him.
 - c. He will not (because He does not change) break His word, or do something in His best interest while harming us. That is he will not do something just so it would advance His wants or desires, without first considering how it might affect us. (Romans 8:28)
 - d. The God we serve will only do something that is for our best, and what is right for us. As Christians if we can grasp this truth it will make all the difference in trusting our Lord with all that we have and possess in this life. (Romans 8:32-39)

- d. Whatsoever God Doeth, It Shall Be Forever (Ecclesiastes 3:14a)
 - i. His counsel stands forever (Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 46:10)
 - ii. His dominion and kingdom is forever (Daniel 4:34-35)
 - 1. Nebuchadnezzar had to come to the understanding that his kingdom and power was under the authority of God (Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 66:1)
 - 2. Notice: Nebuchadnezzar points out that “none can stay his hand, or say unto him, what doest thou?” (Daniel 4:35c; Isaiah 43:13)
 - a. Solomon pointed this out in the Proverbs (Proverbs 21:30)
 - b. Paul experienced this when fighting against the Lord (Acts 9:5)
 - iii. His faithfulness is for ever (Psalm 119:90-91)
 - iv. His mercy is for ever (Psalm 136:2)
 - v. He offered the (one) sacrifice for sins for ever (Hebrews 10:12)
 - vi. The word of God liveth and abideth for ever (1 Peter 1:23)

- e. Nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it (Ecclesiastes 3:14b)
 - i. God has bounds that man cannot cross (Ecclesiastes 3:14b)
 - 1. Practical examples from life:
 - a. Man is bound by time
 - b. Man is bound by distances to travel
 - c. Man is bound by how much strength he has
 - d. Man can observe, but not control the weather
 - e. Man cannot live this life forever
 - f. Man cannot create something that will last forever
 - 2. Scriptural examples:
 - a. The tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-8)
 - b. Christ before Pilate (John 19:10-11)
 - c. Man’s wisdom cannot stand against the Lord (Psalm 76:10; Proverbs 19:21; 21:30)

- ii. Man is warned not to take away from what God has put in place (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6)
- f. God Doeth It, That Men Should Fear (Ecclesiastes 3:14c)
 - i. Everything that God does is perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4; 2 Samuel 22:31) because He is perfect and holy (Psalm 18:30; Isaiah 6:3)
 - ii. Therefore men should and will fear Him (Psalm 64:9; Psalm 96:4; Isaiah 59:18-19; Revelation 15:4)
- V. THE REQUIREMENT OF ALL THAT IS DONE (Ecclesiastes 3:15)
 - a. That Which Hath Been Is Now (Ecclesiastes 3:15a)
 - i. What is now, has already been (Ecclesiastes 1:9)
 - ii. There is nothing truly new “under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:10)
 - b. What God Does Is New
 - i. We saw this truth several lessons back; while man thinks he is doing some “new” thing, in reality he is just repeating what has already been.
 - ii. A few things to be reminded of are the following:
 - 1. He will make waters in the wilderness (Isaiah 43:19)
 - 2. He will make a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1, 5)
 - c. God Shall Require What Is Done (Ecclesiastes 3:15b)
 - i. God will bring every work into judgment (Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:14)
 - 1. The secrets of life shall be judged by Christ (Romans 2:16)
 - 2. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess (Romans 14:10-12)
 - ii. Time and location for man’s judgment (Ecclesiastes 3:15b)
 - 1. Saints before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - 2. Tribulation Saints and Lost (Revelation 20:11-15)

- VI. THE TIME OF JUDGMENT FOR THAT WHICH IS DONE
(Ecclesiastes 3:16-17)
- a. The Place of Judgment (Ecclesiastes 3:16a)
 - i. Notice that this is on earth (“under the sun”)
 - ii. With the Levites (Deuteronomy 17:9)
 - iii. With the elders of the city (Deuteronomy 21:19; 25:7; Joshua 20:4)
 - iv. With the king (1 Kings 3:23-28)
 - v. In the Midst of the people (Joshua 7:24)
 - vi. Wickedness found there (Ecclesiastes 3:16a)
 - 1. Wickedness in the king and elders (1 Kings 21:1-11; Isaiah 59:14)
 - 2. Wickedness by the religious leaders (Matthew 26:59; Acts 23:3)
 - b. The Place of Righteousness (Ecclesiastes 3:16b)
 - i. Iniquity found in the tabernacle (1 Samuel 2:11-18, 22)
 - ii. Iniquity found in the temple (Matthew 21:12-13)
 - c. God’s Judgment of the Righteous and the Wicked
(Ecclesiastes 3:17; 12:14)
 - i. The Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - 1. For those that are saved
 - 2. Judged for what was done in this life
 - 3. Whether good or bad
 - ii. The Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)
 - 1. For those that are unsaved, however, there will likely be Tribulation saints and those that have lived after church age judged here.
 - 2. Judged for what was done during life
 - 3. Whether good or bad
 - 4. Placement in Lake of Fire determined if name is in book of life or not.