

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There Is a Time for Everything

ALL SEASONS BELONG TO GOD

THE COMPREHENSIVE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Whole Life

Whole Experience

WORLDVIEW

Birth and Death (2a)

Plant and Pluck (2b)

Kill and Heal (3a)

Break and Build (3b)

Weep and Laugh (4a)

Mourn and Dance (4b)

Cast and Gather (5a)

Embrace and Release (5b)

Seek and Lose (6a)

Keep and Cast (6b)

Tear and Sew (7a)

Silence and Speech (7b)

Love and Hate (8a)

War and Peace (8b)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that every time and season of our lives belongs to God, for His glory and our good. The main takeaways are to learn to conform our preferences to God's purposes and to develop a better standard by which to judge the seasons than our convenience.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Do you prefer some seasons over the others (winter, spring, summer, fall)? Why?
3. Had you ever considered the fact that each season was designed by God to teach us certain aspects of His nature and work?
4. Can you see how the different times and seasons of our lives are like the seasons of the calendar?
5. Can you resonate with Pastor Dave at all when he says, "I've come to recognize my need to learn to conform my preferences to God's purposes. I've come to recognize that I need a better standard by which to judge the seasons than my personal preference or convenience. And I've come to recognize that the alternative is to dishonor God and miss out on learning the important lessons He's embedded into each season."?
6. Which seasons of life do you most and least look forward to? Why? Does this passage cause you to rethink your answer?
7. Does it sound like good news to you to hear that God is sovereign over the whole of your life and all your experiences in it?
8. How would you define "worldview"? Why is worldview important? How did this passage confront/expand your worldview?
9. Which of the 14 poem pairs is easiest and most difficult for you to appreciate God's hand in? Why?
10. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

11. Spend time outside this week, considering carefully the spiritual significance of the end of winter and beginning of spring.
12. Name one aspect of winter and spring that currently helps and hurts your view of God and His grace in your life.
13. Read the chapter on the sovereignty of God in Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* (or some other systematic theology).
14. Pick one of the poem pairs to consider more carefully this week. Ask God to help you discern and act on the time for each.
15. Read a book or watch a video on worldview this week.
16. Listen to the song, "[Turn! Turn! Turn!](#)" by the Byrds. Do you think their song captures this passage well?
17. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
18. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

19. Adoration. Praise God that He is Lord of every season. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is in perfect balance in every way. Praise God for His diverse excellencies. Praise God that He is always victorious.
20. Confess. Confess your sins of rejecting God's purposes in various seasons of the calendar and in your life. Confess your sin of preferring comfort to godliness. Confess your sin of acting out of season.
21. Thanksgiving. Thank God for every season. Thank God for the diversity of our experiences. Thank God for always working for glory and good. Thank God for a church that seeks to live fully in faith through each season together.
22. Supplication. Ask God to help you love the full measure of grace God has put in each season. Ask God to help those who are in difficult seasons to see God's good hand in it. Ask God to make you eager and patient for the return of Christ and the fullness of peace.