

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

Everything Beautiful in its Time

A Q&A WITH THE PREACHER REGARDING GOD'S SOVEREIGN HAND ON OUR LIVES

Given the fact that God has made a time for everything, what gain has the worker from his toil (9-10)?

What are we to make of God's sovereignty over our work and the frustration that often accompanies it (11)?

Why is all of this so frustrating (11)?

What is the best that life under the sun offers (12-13)?

Why can all of this seem not only frustrating, but also futile (14-15)?

SEIZE THE DAY ABOVE THE SUN

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

Within the "Q&A" we'll see that the Preacher's big idea is that wrapped in mystery is the fact that God has made everything beautiful in its time. Because of the beauty, we can trust God and find joy. Because of the mystery, our joy is limited under the sun. The main takeaways are to enjoy that which God has given us and look to God's Word to know how to do so.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you ever wished you could talk to someone whose presentation you witnessed (pastor, lecture, concert, training, etc.)?
3. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the sovereignty of God?
4. Do you know anyone who is troubled by the idea of God's sovereignty? Are you? What's at the heart of the trouble?
5. Why do you think it's so hard for so many to reconcile the sovereignty of God with their experiences in life?
6. What gain do you get from your work? Are you ever frustrated with your work? Do you wish God would make it better?
7. Can you think of anything you've experienced that didn't have any aspect of beauty in it? If so, what did you do?
8. In your own words, what does it mean that God has put eternity into your heart? How have you experienced it?
9. Have you ever felt like you have an itch you can't scratch, a longing that can't be fulfilled, or a question without answer?
10. What do you think of the idea that there is nothing better than to eat and drink and take pleasure in all our toil?
11. Has life ever felt futile to you? Why/not?
12. Were you able to find any new hope from this passage and/or sermon? If so, what?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

14. Go to DG with more specific and thoughtful questions concerning the sermon/text. Press further in than normal.
15. Read the chapter on the sovereignty of God in Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* (or some other systematic theology).
16. Find one specific way this week to work more excellently at work, home, and church in light of God's sovereignty over it.
17. Artistically express the beauty of some aspect of your week in light of God's sovereignty over it.
18. Tell one person (who doesn't already know) (1) That they have eternity in their heart and (2) What difference that makes.
19. Host a meal with better-than-usual food and drink. Work hard to make it joyful. Root it all for everyone in God's Word.
20. Start a new rhythm in your life or more fully embrace an old one for the sake of growing in your faith.
21. Remind yourself and everyone you encounter this week of the gospel. Do it over and over and over.
22. 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.
23. 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

24. Adoration. Praise God that He is perfectly efficient and sovereign. Praise God that He is beautiful. Praise God that He is eternal and immutable. Praise God that He is good and kind. Praise God that He is omnipotent.
25. Confess. Confess laziness. Confess despair. Confess working as unto anyone other than the Lord. Confess looking for meaning and satisfaction under the sun. Confess worldliness. Confess drunkenness. Confess feelings of futility.
26. Thanksgiving. Thank God for providing for you and giving you gainful employment. Thank God for making you in His image. Thank God for giving you joy. Thank God for making everything beautiful in its time. Thank God for good food and friends.
27. Supplication. Ask God to allow us to see above the sun at all times. Ask God to save someone who is stuck in futility.