

A Crisis of Faith
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Chapters 1-2 was a critique of life, there is no life without God.

3:1-15 is a crisis of faith, that God appoints all events

- v. 1 In the sovereignty of God there are appointed times for *every* event.
- v. 2 For life and for death of both men and for plants.
- v. 3-8 And for all things. Good and bad
Building and destroying
Crying and laughing
War and peace
- No absentee landlord
 - no dualism (equal good and evil forces)
- God decrees and plans **all** events.
- God is sovereign!
- v. 9 Thus the question, "Why labor when our death is decreed?"
- v. 10 How do we navigate the task of life?
- v. 11 First, a Perspective
- a. "everything is beautiful"
 - b. We long to know the eternal mind of God
 - c. But we will not necessarily know in this life.

v. 12 "**Rejoice**" ... in 2:26 God has given the believer divine wisdom and joy. We have sufficient answers of which we rejoice.

"**Enjoy**" ... Carpe Deum" Don't let what you can't understand ruin what you can enjoy.

What simple things give you enjoyment?

v. 13 "**Do Good**" ... Be a blessing.

Make a difference.

And as Christians we have a higher perspective. (Gal 6:9)

"**Work hard**" ... Make something of the time you have been given. This is called "The Protestant Work Ethic."

Work is what God does and what man was given to do.

"Do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men."

And in the N.T. perspective we have:

- a higher motive: eternal rewards
- and a greater work: the gospel

v. 14 "**Fear God**" ... our moral compass

v. 15 "**Rest**" ... All things are in God's eternal plan.

Conclusion: