

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Happy New Year!

These questions are for the **January 3, 2021** sermon, "Of Time and Eternity." Please read the sermon passage (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN IN THIS WORLD, NOTE . . .

1. The pattern of opposites established by God. (1-8)
 - a. There is a season for everything in this life: both the good and the bad.
 - i. We often do not understand or gain answers to our "why" questions.
 - ii. God's delays are not God's denials. "God's delays are a part of God's design."
 - b. Be faithful in the small and seemingly insignificant "nowhere" moments of life.
 - c. Let the waiting push you see and savor Jesus Christ, who came at just the right time. His work is completed for those who trust him. (John 19:30) Salvation is here!
2. The quest for understanding given by God. (9-11)
 - a. We work hard, putting forth work that is meaningful.
 - i. But we stop and analyze our work, wondering if it is all worth it.
 - ii. Keep working under the authority of the Almighty. It is all worth it!
 - b. Every puzzle piece matters. Though all fit. The picture takes shape. Don't force fit!
3. The purpose for living revealed by God. (12-15)
 - a. Work is a gift to us that provides purpose and always points to the ultimate work: Jesus.
 - b. God stepped into time, sending Jesus to save all who trust him. (Galatians 4:4)
 - c. This is our joy, our satisfaction, our redemption and our mission.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Review 2020. How low were your lows? How high were your highs? Are you angry about anything? Anxious? Unforgiving? What are some things you can graciously address (change, "happen to") in 2021? What things must you accept (come to peace with)?
2. Based on #1, above: Your quiet and unseen faithfulness may have no perceivable impact today. But it will be felt. Like planted crops, a season of reaping will come. What "quiet" or "unseen" faithfulness is God convicting your heart of? (i.e., forgiveness, kindness, choosing your spouse, valuing God's Word, use of time, use of money)
3. Based on #2, above: We may never understand why God allows our hardest circumstances and heaviest burdens. Discuss.
4. Based on #2, above: Yet God never leaves us or forsakes us. These hard circumstances prove (strengthen and reveal) our faith (check out James 1:2-8). What are other people learning about God as you hold to him and glorify him through unexplained suffering?
5. Based on #3, above: Jesus suffered ultimately to save sinners (like you). That suffering was undeserved but perfectly timed. How does Jesus' suffering give you strength to endure?