

Solomon's Quest for the Meaning of Life—series (*part 3*)

Learning to manage the unmanageable

Ecclesiastes 6:12 2019-Feb-24

Solomon writes "**Who can say how one's life can best be spent.**" Solomon, in **Ecclesiastes 3**, tells us that there are *FIVE keys in learning to manage the unmanageable.

The ***first** is we are empowered to _____ that God has a purpose in both the **good** times and the **bad** times.

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Solomon gives us 28 times of life

14 positives

Be Born

Plant

Heal

Build

Laugh

Gather

Embrace

Search

Keep

Mend

Speak

Love

Peace

14 negatives

Die

Uproot

Kill

Tear down

Weep

Scatter stones

Refrain

Give up

Throw away

Tear

Be silent

Hate

War

"Though God has planted eternity in the hearts of men, yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning to end." Ecclesiastes 3:11

The ***second** we are empowered to _____ our faith when we can't see the **beginning** from the **end**.

Jesus says, "**You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.**" John 13:7

"This happened so we might learn to trust, not in ourselves, but in God." 2 Corinthians 1:9

The ***third** we are empowered to _____ the **present time** to doing good.

"I know there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live." Ecclesiastes 3:12

"God created us for a life of good works, which He already prepared for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 (GN)

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)

The ***fourth** we are empowered to _____ **all** my time as a gift from God.

"All of us should eat and drink and enjoy what we've worked for. It is God's gift." Ecclesiastes 3:13 (GN)

"However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all." Ecclesiastes 11:8

We have just enough time to do _____.

Now if we say, I don't have enough time, that simply means

A. We are doing something that God never _____ us to do.

B. We are doing the right thing in the _____.

C. We are too busy with _____ things that are taking up my time, are more important than You, God. Maybe later!

***Fifth**, we are empowered to _____ giving an **account** on how we are using our time.

"God will call the past to account." Ecclesiastes 3:15

"God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time for every deed." Verse 17

"Each of us will give an account of himself to God." Romans 14:12

"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as ones who don't know the meaning of life, but as those who do. Make the best use of your time."

Ephesians 5:15-16 (Ph)

Four questions we can ponder:

1. What can I learn from this moment?
2. What good can I do in this moment?
3. What can I enjoy in this moment?
4. How can I trust God in this moment?