

A THEOLOGY OF TIME

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—January 28th, 2024

ECCLESIASTES 3

(ESV)

[1] For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

[2] a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

[3] a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

[4] a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

[5] a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

[6] a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

[7] a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

[8] a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

[9] What gain has the worker from his toil? [10] I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. [11] He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. [12] I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; [13] also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

[14] I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. [15] That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

[16] Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. [17] I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. [18] I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. [19] For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. [20] All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. [21] Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? [22] So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

INTRODUCTION

Time is something we must handle very carefully.

Ephesians 5:15–16–[15] *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*

Romans 14:23–*For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.*

Hebrews 11:6–[6] *And without faith it is impossible to please [God]...*

Time is a gift that God gives us, and he requires us to approach it with faith and use it ALL for his glory.

TIME AND HUMAN AGENCY

Life is complex, decisions and discernment are difficult, so we need wisdom from God,

Galatians 4:4–5–[4] *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

We recognize that we are not wise in and of ourselves.

Proverbs 3:5–6

[5] *Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.*

[6] *In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.*

We ask God for wisdom.

James 1:5–[5] *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*

But we also need to be proactive with our use of time.

James 4:17–[17] *So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

“If we aren’t abounding in good works, the problem is likely not a lack of opportunity but a lack of desire.” –Matt Perman

TIME AND DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY

He, that is God, is not in the business of busyness; he is in the business of making things beautiful.

Psalm 27:4

*[4] One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.*

Psalm 50:2

*[2] Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.*

Notice that the preacher has no problem calling men to action and at the same time recognizing the sovereignty of God.

Proverbs 16:9

*[9] The heart of man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps.*

Philippians 2:12–13—...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, [13] for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

We are called to act upon time but not as though we are the lord of time.

James 4:15–16—[15] Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” [16] As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Romans 8:28—[28] And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

TIME AND JUDGMENT

Wisdom is not a matter of preference, wisdom is a matter of life and death.

Proverbs 8:35–36

*[35] For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the LORD,
[36] but he who fails to find me injures himself;
all who hate me love death.”*

1 Peter 1:6–7—*[6] In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, [7] so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*