

A. INTRODUCTION

- 1. Review - Last Week Considered Preacher’s Famous Words of Ecclesiastes 3
 - a. **vs 1-8** - Informs us that the events of life are beyond one’s personal control
 - 1) NOT saying - there is a time when YOU should be doing all these things AND that happiness depends on knowing when to do what.
 - 2) IS saying - GOD has appointed times when all these things will happen & His appointment is great & certain.....**SEE 3:14**
 - b. **vs 9-13** - Points out that God in His providence is controlling the events of our lives
 - 1) **vs 10** - God who has given man business
 - 2) **vs 11** - God who makes everything beautiful in its own time
 - 3) **vs 11** - God who puts eternity into man’s heart
 - c. **vs 14** - Notes proper response to these realities is to live in the fear of God
 - 1) Just as proper response to God’s blessings is..... THANKSGIVING
 - 2) So the proper response to God’s sovereignty is FEAR OF GOD
- 2. Fear of God
 - a. Something Bible speaks much about in OT & NT
 - b. Solomon concludes ECC by saying

Ecclesiastes 12:13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

- c. Sometimes people say - - FEAR OF GOD = RESPECT OF GOD
 - 1) True in fear there is respect - reverence - - something needed today
 - 2) But MORE THAN THAT

- 3) I know folks I respect BUT disagree with
- 4) Dare not disagree with God
- d. Basis of Covenant(s) is FEAR of God
 - 1) **SEE ECC 5:7**
 - 2) Vows are made to God, who sees and knows even the secret thoughts of our hearts.
 - 3) He knows & holds us accountable

3. Accountability

- a. Close of service last Lord's Day - PASTOR AL rightly noted that God's sovereignty in ordering the times & seasons does not negate man's responsibility - accountability to/before God
- b. Responsibility/accountability is a great theme of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 12:14 - For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

4. At the Heart of Judgment Is Accountability

- a. Accountability based upon
 - 1) Concept of law(s) laws pronounce what is legal & not legal
 - 2) Recognition of authority those who have authority to hold me accountable to the law
 - 3) Reality of power use of force (power) to assert accountability
- b. Think about example of Law enforcement
 - 1) Attempt reason (talk) - fails >>
 - 2) Strong verbal warnings - fails >>
 - 3) Physical arrest - fails >>
 - 4) Tazer - fails >>
 - 5) Deadly force

Son-in-Law Sam arresting a man high on drugs

5. **ECC 3:16-22** - Preacher Points Out

- a. All are accountable before God
- b. This accountability is fully realized in judgment
- c. Like all other matters - this time too is appointed by God

SEE vs 17

B. TIME FOR JUDGMENT

1. Injustice is Something Which Makes Us Uncomfortable - Ill & Upset

- a. David Fairchild (of Kaleo Church in San Diego) notes

Not all stories have the endings we would choose. Yet you and I learn to live with these sad endings because it reflects reality.

But what is harder to live with is a story that leaves us with a sense of injustice. We don't mind sad stories, but we can't stand stories of injustice.

b. Example

- 1) Romeo and Juliet's love is left unfulfilled - tragic but acceptable

- 2) Okay if Cinderella's coach turns into a pumpkin BUT we would be ill IF wicked step-sister's foot fit the glass slipper & the Prince married her
- c. Again Pastor Fairchild notes,

There is something disturbing and gut wrenching about the wicked turning out to be the victor. A world where that happened more often than not would be a world that you and I could not bear.

2. **3:16** - The Situation - Solomon Considers Injustice

- a. Solomon looks at justice AND laments injustices
 - 1) Looks to justice of law (courts) - sees wickedness
 - 2) Looks to guidance of moral values - sees wickedness
- b. We know the reality of the injustice of man's justice
 - 1) As of 2010 - 250 prisoners served 3,160 years behind bars - 17 spent time on death row
 - 2) DNA proved them innocent of crimes convicted
- c. On other hand
 - 1) Not all crimes are solved & guilty criminals are free - never caught
 - 2) Other known criminals set free or found no guilty because of flawed judicial system
- d. WHY? - Why in the place of justice is there injustice & in place of righteousness is there wickedness

Because we are sinners - not perfect or omniscience or sovereign
- e. This should have bearing upon HOW we judge one another
 - 1) We don't know everything - we often jump to wrong conclusions
 - 2) WARNING is act in love & remember the grace you have received
- f. Solomon sees injustice in world & is distressed

3. **3:17** - The Answer - Solomon Considers God's Judgment

- a. All- wise- knowing - just God will judge
 - 1) He will judge ALL men
 - 2) He will judge every work - word - thought & deed
 - 3) As Archibald Alexander (founding professor of Princeton Theological Seminary) once said

But every thing will be conducted with the most perfect equity. Every man will be judged for his own deeds, and according to that knowledge of the law which he had opportunity of acquitting. The omniscience of the Judge will enable him to estimate with perfect exactness all the circumstances of every action; every thing which aggravated guilt, and every thing which palliates it, will have due consideration. They who lived under the patriarchal dispensation, will be judged according to the light and advantages then enjoyed; they who lived under the Mosaical economy, will be judged by the law of Moses; and they who enjoyed the clear light of the gospel, will be dealt with in a manner accordant to their advantages; while they who enjoyed no external revelation, will be judged by that law written on the hearts of all men.

Judge of all the earth will do right. He will not condemn the innocent, nor clear the guilty. And his judgment will be most impartial. There will be no respecting of

persons. The king and the beggar will stand upon equal ground, and will be judged by the same rule. Those who in this world were reviled and slandered, and had no opportunity of clearing up their character, will then be vindicated, and lies and reproaches will have effect no more.

b. On one hand we long for such just judgment
c..... On other hand such a day brings us fear

- 1) Each of us have scars - have them soothed
- 2) Each of us have caused scars - have them forgiven

4. **3:18** - Test of Life

- a. Difficult portion NOT all agree on its meaning
- b. We can agree
 - 1) Person who lives - thinks - acts without God - no better than a beast
 - 2) God is not willing that any should perish AND life is opportunity to turn & live
- c. Solomon tells us there is a time for God's just judgment
 - 1) Part of us cries out - NOW LORD!
 - 2) But God is patient - He would have sinners be saved
- d. Passage comes to mind is **2 Peter 3**

2 Peter 3:8-10 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

C. CONCLUSION

1. That A Day of Just Judgment Awaits
 - a. Something a part of us cries out for justice - - we long to see wrong put right
 - b. BUT there are matters greater than me that demand Day of Just Judgment
 - 1) Word of God DECLARES such a day - **SEE REV 20:11-15**
 - 2) God's holy nature DEMANDS such a day - **Isaiah 5:16** - **But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.**
 - 3) Christ's resurrection GUARANTEES such a day - **Acts 17:31** - **because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."**
 - c. Archibald Alexander declares

It is not so certain that we shall ever see the sun rise again, as it is that we shall see the day of judgment.

2. Such Reality Should Give Each One Pause - Fear

- a. **2 Corinthians 5** - Paul ponders appearing before the judgment seat of Christ & says

2 Corinthians 5:11 - Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.

b. We are warned to flee the wrath to come*BUT WHERE CAN YOU FLEE?*

1) To a survival-bunker?

2) To a desert island?

3) To your good works

c. There is only one place to flee - only one refuge - **JESUS!** - He bids you come to
Him