Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time is Unrelenting

Introduction & Review

- □ God rules over all events & establishes timeframes for all events in human history (Eccl. 3:1-8).
- □ All events in human history ultimately result in glory for God & fit beautifully in His plan (Eccl. 3:11a) ...beautiful in its time.
- □ God has given people a sense of eternity within & people want to understand things from beginning to end (Eccl. 3:11b).
- □ Believers must willingly accept the limitations in our understanding of the events of life (Eccl. 3:11b).
- I. Divine Appointments
 - A. The consistency of time

The Hebrew word for "season" means "appointed time" (Neh. 2:6; Est. 9:27). Though people around the world live in different time zones, time itself is the same everywhere. In every language, culture or society, time is a common factor – the same. God has defined a day and other divisions of time based on phases of the sun & moon (Gen. 1:8, 14).

B. The consistency of events

Even though people around the world live in vastly different cultures, the events of life remain the same. Existence & survival dictate that certain events must occur – life, death, planting, reaping, building, destroying, etc. (Eccl. 1:9) The author of Ecclesiastes is describing these same events 3,000 years ago.

ILL: The human body. Every living human being must inhale, exhale, blood circulation, some form of nutrition, etc. These functions or activities are ordained by God to maintain life. These functions are essential regardless of the place in this world where people may live.

APPL: Likewise God has ordained events that must occur in time for humanity to exist & survive. These events are essential regardless of a person's status in life – believer or unbeliever, male or female; on every continent, nation, society (civilized or uncivilized), etc.

II. Human Compliance

A. The demands of time

God ensures that time is made available for every event & activity that people need to accomplish (Gen. 8:22). Specific events must occur at specific time periods to fulfill God's great plans & purposes – birth, death, planting, etc. God has set an appointment for every individual with birth, trials, deliverance ... & death as a part of life's cycle or experience.

B. The insistence of time

Every individual must keep the appointment set by God with the events of life – birth, trials, deliverance... & death (Ps. 139:13-14; Jas. 1:2; Heb. 9:27). These appointments are non-optional & non-negotiable. Whether a mother is ready or not, when the time comes for the baby to be born, the mother & baby must keep that appointment. Whether family & friends are ready or not, when the time comes for someone to die, that person must keep that appointment. Time is insistent & unrelenting – there is a time for every matter under heaven; even Jesus (Gal. 4:4). Every appointment has a divine purpose & is actually beneficial for the believer (Rom. 8:28). Also Abraham, Isaac & Jacob had appointments in God's time table, all the events in Joseph's life were appointments by God, Pharaoh (Rom. 9:17), Judas..., you & me our own appointments!

CONCLUSION

Therefore since God has set or made appointments for all of us for the varying experiences of life, we must willingly accept these appointments. They are not only necessary for life, but actually good for the believer because God is actively involved. They are not only necessary for life, but perfectly & beautifully fit into God's wonderful plan of redemption. Appointments are not always pleasant, but appointments are always necessary. The benefit of appointments are not always ready apparent, but in God's time the results always bring joy to the believer. Therefore count all joy my brother or sister as you meet trials of various kinds (appointments of various kinds), for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness which result in your maturity. Don't be afraid of your appointments, they are for your good & not for evil.

And if you are not a Christian, you have some appointments in life also. God has already made them for you. You have already had your appointment with birth & you will have your appointment with death. To be ready for your appointment with death, you need to keep your appointment with Jesus now. He's here right now; to meet with you, to forgive you, save, cleanse & make you His own... Will you trust Him & believe today...? SUBJECT: Time is Unrelenting TEXT: Ecclesiastes 3:11 LOCATION: Trinity Community Church DATE: March 17, 2013 OCASSION: Sunday Morning Worship Svc SERMON INDEX NUMBER: 1029 FILE LOCATION: Computer Sermons 1Q13

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