

03 – Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 – How to cope when life does not make sense

... passage misused and quoted out of context.

The God of time

Ecc 3:1-8 ... things happen in their appointed time.

... the things that happen during our life are so far out of our control.

Ecc 3:9, We labour and toil and gain nothing.

But God...

- verse 11 ... 100% in control of everything
- verse 14 ... things God does endure forever

We are VERY finite ... but God is not.

Ecc 1:4 ... “generations of people come and go as the earth remains forever”.

Why God does it this way?

verse 14, “God does it so that we might fear him”.

... total respect and reverent awe.

Why we should fear him and why this is good.

...it all will be judged. (Ecc 3:15-17)

... under the sun judgment is mixed with wickedness.

... Yet God will never be like this.

God’s test

what we do ... reveals whether we are nothing more than brute beasts

verse 18, “Are we like the animals?” or “are we different from them?”

Not animals

... if we are people who understand the fruit of our toils as being a gift from God.

... if we gain enjoyment from these things by looking to God

Humans

... “God has set eternity in our hearts” (v11)

... “Gods call us to fear him” (v14)

Our response to God that distinguish us from the animals.

Psalm 49:20, “people who have wealth but lack understanding are like the beasts that perish.”

For us today

a) The danger of misquoting

b) God is sovereign

What he does endures forever.

... invited by the teacher to not only recognise this reality but to put ourselves under God’s rule.

... we need to trust God.

Psalm 31:15, “My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me”.

c) Our response to God

Psalm 49:13 ... the fate of those who trust in themselves

...verse 15 ... God will redeem people from the realm of the dead those who trust him.