

Joy Unspeakable

Sounds of the Season

Week 6 - A Year in the Rear View

Three Favorites

<u>Thing</u>

<u>Media</u>

<u>Memory</u>

Ecclesiastes 1:2

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless."

Ecclesiastes 1:13-14

I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:11

Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes Context

<u>Wisdom Literature</u> Grouped with Job, Proverbs

<u>Dark Themes</u> -Time moves on -Death Happens -Life is Random

<u>Thought Process</u> Ideology: About ideas Not Theology: About God

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
 ² a time to be born and a time to die,
 a time to plant and a time to uproot,
 ³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
 a time to tear down and a time to build,
 ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
 a time to mourn and a time to dance,
⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
 ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
 ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
 ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

**The Hebraic view of time is not as QUANTITATIVE,
rather as QUALITATIVE.**

Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

What do workers gain from their toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. ¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him.

*Do not store up treasures on earth...do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, what you will wear...Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.**

*Remain in my love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. This is my command: ***

LOVE EACH OTHER -Jesus

So What?

Instead of a **RESOLUTION**,
choose to **REMAIN**.

ASK:

Is this allowing me to **REMAIN IN A CLOSER WALK WITH JESUS?**



* Matthew 6:19, 25, 32-34 ** John 15:9-11, 17

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

If you haven't taken time to reflect and fill out your "Three Favorites", take time and do it now; then share it with your family/group/close friends and share about why those are your three.

Read Ecclesiastes Chapters 1 & 2

:: How does it make you feel?

:: How, in light of understanding more about wisdom literature, do you view these passages now as opposed to prior readings?

Re-read Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

:: Pastor Steve discussed how the Hebrews viewed time differently than we do today.

:: How has that understanding impacted your understanding of this and, possibly, other scriptures in the Old Testament?

Pastor Steve said, "Instead of making a New Year's resolution, to choose to remain."

:: How do you see yourself remaining in this New Year?

:: What practices will you engage in to remain connected to God and His kingdom?

:: How do think remaining will impact your ability to live with Joy and Love one another?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

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