

**Series:** Ecclesiastes

**Sermon:** In Every Season, Fear the Lord

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11; 5:2-7; 12:13-14

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**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; 5:2-7; 12:13-14 (ESV)**

**3**<sup>1</sup> *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

<sup>2</sup> *a time to be born, and a time to die;*

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

<sup>3</sup> *a time to kill, and a time to heal;*

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

<sup>4</sup> *a time to weep, and a time to laugh;*

*a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

<sup>5</sup> *a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;*

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

<sup>6</sup> *a time to seek, and a time to lose;*

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

<sup>7</sup> *a time to tear, and a time to sew;*

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

<sup>8</sup> *a time to love, and a time to hate;*

*a time for war, and a time for peace.*

<sup>11</sup> *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.*

**5**<sup>2</sup> *Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.*

<sup>3</sup> *For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.*

<sup>4</sup> *When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow.*

<sup>5</sup> *It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.*

<sup>6</sup> *Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?*

<sup>7</sup> *For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.*

**12**<sup>13</sup> *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

<sup>14</sup> *For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

## **A time for everything under the sun. (3:1-8, 11)**

### **A time to keep silent and a time to speak. (3:7b, 5:2-7)**

- Proverbs 12:18 (ESV)  
*There is one whose rash words are like **sword thrusts**, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*
- Proverbs 17:27-28 (ESV)  
*<sup>27</sup> Whoever restrains his words has knowledge,  
and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.  
<sup>28</sup> Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise;  
when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.*
- Proverbs 18:2 (ESV)  
*A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,  
but only in expressing his opinion.*
- Proverbs 18:9 (ESV)  
*Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.*
- Proverbs 28:23 (ESV)  
*Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue.*
- Proverbs 31:8-9 (ESV)  
*<sup>8</sup> Open your mouth for the mute,  
for the rights of all who are destitute.  
<sup>9</sup> Open your mouth, judge righteously,  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

### **A time for coming judgment; therefore, fear the Lord. (12:13-14)**

- Psalm 97:10-13 (ESV)  
*Say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.' Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.*

- For many of us, judgment scares, threatens, and spooks us. But for the Preacher, judgment blesses us ... God's judgment, the Preacher implies, not only condemns it also finally vindicates. - Zach Eswine, *Recovering Eden*, p. 222
- If there is no God, and therefore no final judgment, then it is hard to see how anything we do really matters. But if there is a God who will judge the world, then *everything* matters. This is *not* all there is. There is a God in heaven who rules the world. There is a life to come. One day the dead will be raised and every person who has ever lived will stand before God. And when that day comes, it will become clear that there is eternal significance in everything anyone ever thought, said or did ... The final message of Ecclesiastes is not that nothing matters ... but that *everything* does.  
- Philip Ryken, *Why Everything Matters*, p. 140