



Fighting Uncertainty

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

The certainty of uncertainty: We never know what will happen next.

A life filled with uncertainty: looming terrorism, rocketing gas prices, ...

Our Big Problem: How can we deal with uncertainty?

We can only face the uncertainties of time...when we are connected to the God of eternity.
(vv 1-15)

- There is a time for everything—but who knows when it is.
- Nine foundational guidelines in good times, bad times, uncertain times:
 - #1 See your work as a gift from God. (vv 10, 13)
 - #2 See the beauty that God has put in everything. (v 11a)
 - #3 Respond in trust to the inkling of eternity God put in your heart. (v 11b)
 - #4 Rest in the awesome and unknowable work of God. (v 11c)
 - #5 Rejoice and enjoy the fruit of your labors from God. (vv 12, 13)
 - #6 Do good to others and before God. (v 12)
 - #7 See the good in your labor given by God. (v 13)
 - #8 Fear God for Himself and for His works. (v 14)
 - #9 Trust that God is examining and acting on everything. (v 15)

We can only face the uncertainties of eternity...when we put our trust in the God of eternity. (vv 16-22)

- Mankind lacks justice.
- God abounds in justice.
- Eternal hope is secured thru the substitutional justice of God.

***The Cay* by Theodore Taylor.** Time and eternity are too difficult and uncertain for us to face alone. We need Someone.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Idea: Time and eternity are too difficult and uncertain to face alone. We need Someone.

- **Today:** List the biggest uncertainties in your life right now.
- **Monday:** How are these uncertainties affecting you?
- **Tuesday:** What can you do to deal with these uncertainties?
- **Wednesday:** Reflect and pray on this truth: “My responsibilities in life are my calling from God.”
- **Thursday:** Make a list of the things that God has done in your life which you only recognized in retrospect.
- **Friday:** Write a paragraph around “What time is it in my life right now?”
- **Saturday:** Take an hour walk in the morning and look for beauty.

“Connection Group Papers”

Dialogue questions for helping each other in the Christian walk this week.

GETTING STARTED:

- Have you had a time in life where things just kept changing—ambushing you?
- What are the most frightening uncertainties in your life right now?

LOOK AT THE TEXT:

- Why does Solomon give to us the list of “times” in Eccl 3:1-8?
- Is Eccl 3:9 an “under the sun” statement or an “above the sun” statement? Why do you say that? What does the verse mean?
- What does it mean that God has “put eternity in our hearts?” Eccl 3:11
- Is Eccl 3:12, 13 an “under the sun” statement or an “above the sun” statement? Why do you say that? What do the verses mean?
- What does it mean to “fear” God? Eccl 3:14 What reason does Solomon give in this verse to fear God? What are the other reasons to fear God?
- What is the meaning of Eccl 3:21?
- Is Eccl 3:22 an “under the sun” statement or an “above the sun” statement? Why do you say that? What does the verse mean?

LIVE DIFFERENTLY:

- Specifically, what does “fearing God” look like in our lives?
- Please complete this sentence: “Vengeance is Mine, I will...” What attitudes or bitterness do you need to release based on Eccl 3:17, 18?
- If you are embittered against someone which one of you is in bondage?
- What one thing will you do in order to “rejoice and eat and drink and see good in your labor?”
- What one thing will you do in order to “do good in your lifetime” this week?