

Chasing Eternity

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8; 11-14

Jeffrey Allen

A. Chasing The Seasons - vs. 1-8

1. Every season in life has an “*appointed time.*”
2. The word for appointed time is “zeman”.
3. The word for time is “eth” and this is used to denote a particular season.
4. The poetry of this list – describing the different seasons and facets of life – is beautiful. Yet it also casts a dark shadow because it reminds us of the inevitability of trouble and evil, and of the relentless monotony of life.
5. The repetition of ‘a time..., and a time...’ begins to be oppressive. Whatever may be our skill and initiative, our real masters seem to be these inexorable seasons: not only those of the calendar, but that tide of events which moves us now to one kind of action which seems fitting, now to another which puts all into reverse.”- ***Enduring Word Commentary.***

B. Chasing The Beauty - v. 11

1. The word “Appropriate” is the Hebrew word (yapheh) which means beautiful, beauty, comely, fairest, one, goodly, pleasant, well.
2. The writer is saying in due time which each season in or lives there is a display of beauty.
3. How do we see the beauty in some of the most difficult seasons like, death, war, and hate?
4. The writer states that God has placed “eternity in our hearts”.
5. The word for eternity is “ôlām”, which is long duration, antiquity, futurity.
6. Eternity is that which has been and will always be, past and future. What is eternal and everlasting.
7. The word for heart here is leb; which is the inner man of a person. mind, will, heart.
8. God has placed in a man and women’s heart the longing and need for what’s eternal. What is that which is eternal but God himself? It’s the desire and need to know God himself and his nature, character, and power. Not just to know God but to know and experience him intimately.

9. We see the beauty of every season because we pursue God in the midst of each season.
10. He has made everything beautiful in his time (Eccl. 3:11), and therefore, while its time lasts, we must be reconciled to it: we must please ourselves with the beauty of it.
 1. Everything is as God has made it; it is really as he appointed it to be, not as it appears to us.
 2. That which to us seems most unpleasant is yet, in its proper time, altogether becoming.
 3. There is a wonderful harmony in the divine Providence and all its disposals, so that the events of it, when they come to be considered in their relations and tendencies, together with the seasons of them, will appear very beautiful, to the glory of God and the comfort of those that trust in him. - **(Matthew Henry Commentary.)**

C. Chasing What Is Eternity - vs. 12-14

1. Rejoice and do good- The writer realizes we find it profitable to be glad and do what's good in life- For this is a gift from God.
2. See the good in their labor- see the pleasantness in the work they do and enjoy life- For this is the gift of God.
3. What God does is eternal- The things that God plans and does are sealed and forever and no man can change it. In this we can trust and this too is a gift.
4. Because of what God can do and has done in the seasons of our lives we will be in awe of him.
5. He did accurately perceive that God's decrees are immutable. What God has decided will stand and man cannot alter it, either by addition or subtraction. It is foolish for creatures to fight against the arrangements of their Creator. Much better to respect Him and submit to His control. - **(Believer's Bible Commentary)**

Conclusion: God is eternal and that matters to us deeply. We want, need and desire it, because God has placed this in our hearts. In that, the only good and pleasant thing to do is to chase him. Chase his nature, his character, his wisdom, his love, peace, joy, his heart. So that in whatever season we are experiencing at that time in our lives. We can see the beauty in it because we see the beauty of God in it.