

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
|   |   |   | Τ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Χ | Δ |   |   |   |   |   |

T    E V E    T                    T   E   E                    E  
 X Z   T Δ T Y Γ X θ Ω Δ Φ   X θ T Y T   Ω ς   K   ς T K ς Z Δ  
 ,    T   E                    E V E                    E  
      K   X Ω E T   Π Z Y   T Δ T Y Γ   A I Y A Z ς T  
                   E    E V E    ...  
                   I Δ B T Y   θ T K Δ T Δ

### Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 "Cryptogram"

Directions: Try to discover what the hidden verse is above. Each English letter is coded with a Greek letter. The verse is taken from the NKJV.

#### Memory Verse

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.

— Ecclesiastes 3:11

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- Lord's Day & Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday & Saturday

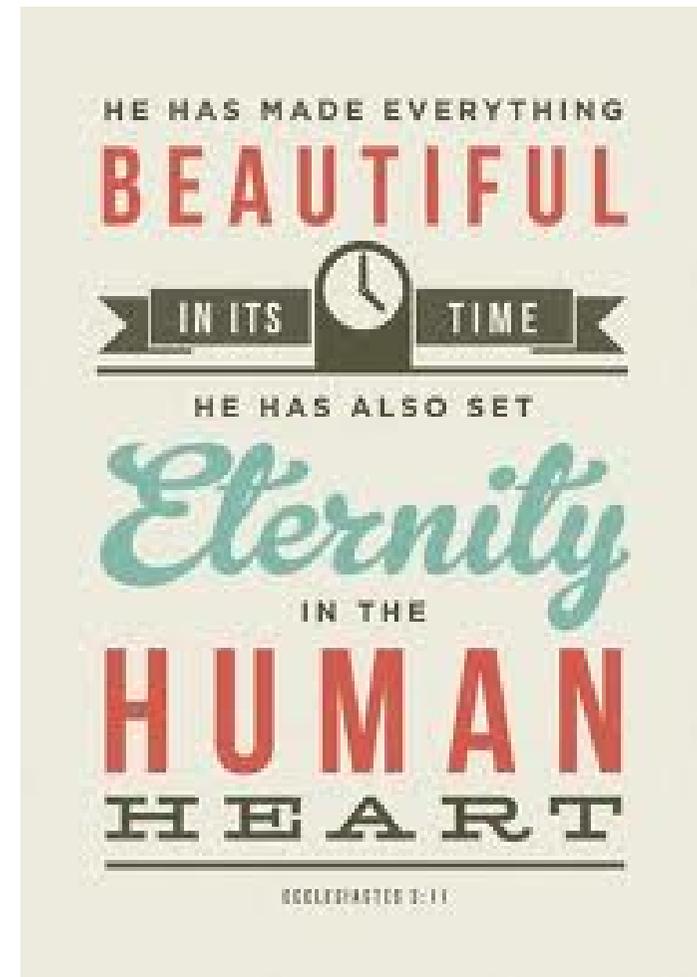
Signature

## Daily Bible Studies

May 19 - 25, 2013

### "Father Time"

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 15



## The Lord's Day & Monday

This is our third week in Ecclesiastes. I pray that you are thinking about God's Word and you are worshipping him in your heart. There is much to praise him for and this week we will see that he is in control of every part of our life.

Please read **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**.

So far we have seen Solomon quite depressed. He is bored with life, to say the least. The snow comes in the winter, the sun comes in the summer... He has asked the question, "What is the point," and one of the only answers he has come up with is, "There is none."

Maybe Solomon even felt afraid. He might have thought as he saw the cycles of life, "Who am I? I cannot stop or start any of this. The sun will set tonight and I cannot stop it. The rain will fall tomorrow and I cannot stop it."

Well this week, we will see that life "under the sun" isn't an unstoppable machine. The Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is at the controls and the Lord pushes all the right buttons at exactly the right time. Jesus is doing exactly what he wants to in your life.

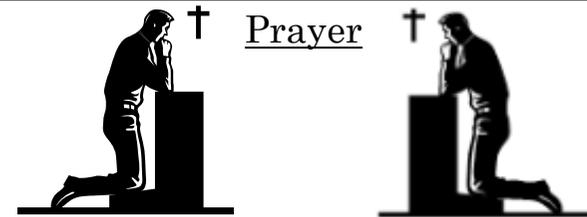
We can thank the Lord Jesus that he has a time for everything. There was a time that God let Solomon despair, stub his toes in the dark, and get the wrong answers. There was also a time that the Wisdom of God lovingly came and shone light into Solomon's dark mind so that he could see the right answers.

"God has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us." -Acts 17:26-27

## Friday & Saturday Quiz

List three differences between God's work and man's work.

| God's Work | Man's Work |
|------------|------------|
|            |            |
|            |            |
|            |            |



Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Heavenly Father, you are a great and awesome God. How unsearchable are your judgments and your ways past finding out! Help to worship you and trust you for as long as I live.

Pray for the Lord's Day service:

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

## Friday & Saturday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 3:14 - 15**.

Yesterday, we saw that Solomon came to conclusions about man and his work. Today, he will lay out his conclusions about the greatest worker, the maker of Heaven and Earth, the Lord Jesus.

Solomon tells us that God's work lasts forever. No one can improve upon it. No one can criticize it. No one can destroy or wear it out. It is perfect.

This is very different from man's work, isn't it? Man's work will last only a short time, it can always be improved, we can always find mistakes and flaws in it. Others can come and destroy and ruin it.

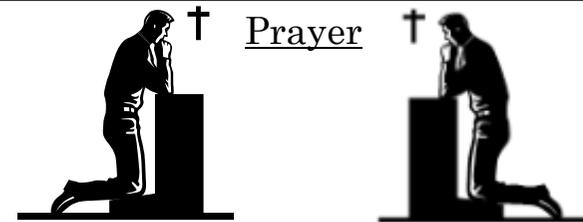
How should we respond to God and his great, eternal work? We should fear Him. This means that we stand in awe of what he has done. It means that we compare our puny, fragile work with his monumental, unchangeable work and we bow before God to worship Him. Our hearts should overflow with love for this God who works and uses his awesome power to take sinful, rebellious people and make them into worshippers of Himself. We should thank Him and praise Him that he cares for us.

As we close the passage for the week, we see Solomon give us one reminder. He reminds us that one day we will stand before this God who controls all of time and He will ask us what we have done with "our time." Boys and girls, remember that God doesn't really need to ask what you did with your time. He knows. The point is that you will have to explain yourself to God.

"And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment." - Hebrews 9:27

## The Lord's Day & Monday Quiz

1. Who is the Wisdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Read the verse at the bottom of page 2. Who determined the time and place you would be born in and live in?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was God's reason for having you live in the year 2013, in the place called Western New York?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Read John 1:4-9 and John 8:12. What is Jesus called in those verses?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord Jesus, you control time, you control the seasons. You even control my life. Thank you for that. You are wiser than I am. I trust that you are doing all of the best things. Help me to cooperate with you, enjoy the ride, and worship you along the way."

Pray for your family:

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandpas, Grandmas, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins

## Tuesday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 3:1**.

Because God is in control, Solomon has discovered some wonderful truth. He has uncovered wonderful and mysterious things about God, our Father. Solomon has noticed that there really is a time for everything. The awesome thing to consider is that Solomon does not say there is only a time for good things. Solomon knows and is telling us that there is a time for good *and* bad things. What is so awesome about that? Answer: Whether things are good or bad, God makes all of it “beautiful in its time.”

We have a hard time being happy when things are going badly. We ask the question, “Where is God right now? Is he in control of this mess?”

Boys and girls, ask God to give you the faith that if you are His child, He is a good Father. He is letting you experience bad times, but he is using it for your good. Everything our Father does brings us closer to Him. When you want the wrong things, he might let you feel pain when you get them. He might let you feel disappointment. When you forget God, He might let hard times come upon you so that you remember and turn back to Him.

I know from experience, God relentlessly pursues His children. He doesn’t “waste time.” God designed every second of your life so that you would hunger and thirst for Him. God wants you to love Him the way Jesus does.

“...we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.” - Hebrews 12:9-13

## Thursday Quiz

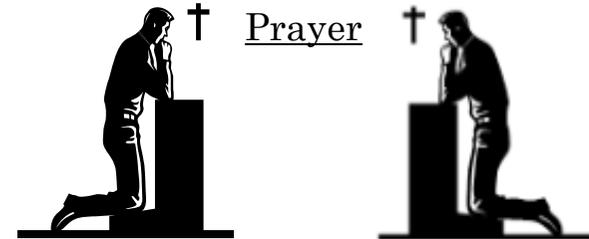
**You might live for 100 years. That’s a long time, right? Well, not really. Think about the people who built the pyramids. They have been dead for thousands of years. You will live in heaven or hell forever. Think about that and write down how that thought should change your life.**

---

---

---

---



Pray about today’s lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

“Dear Jesus, help me to see past the end of my nose. Thank you that you have let me know that there is more to my life than what I see in this world.”

Pray for the leaders of our government. Pray that they will ask for God’s wisdom and make decisions that please Him. This week all of the leaders are involved in taking care of the roads and parks.

1. Mr. Patrick Reed (Salamanca)
2. Mr. Joseph Pillittere (Cattaraugus County)
3. Mrs. Barbara Boxer (United States)



## Thursday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 3:9 - 13**.

We can see that Solomon has made some progress. He seemed to always be asking, "What's the point," but now the Lord has taught him that God controls all things. Since God is good and wise, we can trust that everything he does and everything that his people experience is for good. Solomon is learning, but at least one more time he has to ask, "Is there any point to my work?"

God opens Solomon's eyes to make some observations about man and the work he does. After he is done observing Solomon comes to a conclusion.

**Observation 1:** Work is given to man by God. This doesn't just mean working for a paycheck. Doing schoolwork, doing chores, witnessing to the lost, serving others, etc. are all work. Life is tough. God has given you a job to do.

**Observation 2:** Though our lives are full of difficult, painful, and oftentimes disappointing work, Solomon tells us that God "has made everything beautiful in its time." One day we will understand how God used the tough times for our benefit.

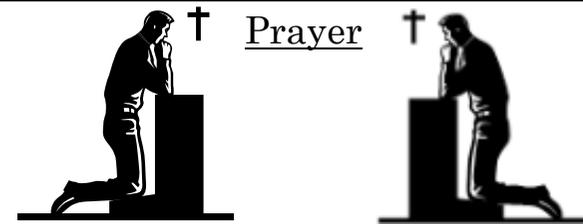
**Observation 3:** We have a God-given "instinct," or sense, that we will outlast the hard work of this life; we know that we will live forever. One thing we can't completely know and understand right now is all of the work that God is doing. We may feel tiny, unable to get anything done, but God is working for the eternal good of His people

**Conclusion:** With all of these things in mind, Solomon concludes:

1. God wants us to work hard and do good.
2. God has set things up so that hard work produces good results.
3. We don't totally understand what God is up to, so we trust him, and while we wait to enter eternity, we should thankfully enjoy the good results of our work. They are gifts from God.

## Tuesday Quiz

1. God is a father to His people. Does a good father let his children always have their way? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does a father correct or discipline his children?  
Answer: For their \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Is discipline painful or pleasant at the time you receive it? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jesus is God's perfect Son. He always loves and obeys His Father. Do you always love and obey God? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What do you think God is doing to make you more like Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_



Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord, I believe you are doing great things. Even though I fail, you are following the plan you made for my life. I am glad that your plan is making me more like Jesus. Help me remember this all of the time."

Pray for your church family:

1. Ms. Laura and Ziarre—living alone in Buffalo
2. Mr. and Mrs. Burger
3. Mrs. Sandy Carbone
4. The kids of the church: Anna, Joel, Maria, Cole, Drew, Rick, Tessa

## Wednesday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 3:2-8**.

You might be wondering, "Is God really in control of everything?" Take a look at some examples.

**"A time to be born and a time to die."** No one chooses when they are born. The Lord does. No one chooses when they die. The Lord does.

Some people want to have children, but unless God forms a baby inside of the mother there can be no child. Some people try to sinfully murder other people, but if God wants the person to live then every bullet will miss.

**"A time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted."** A farmer plants seeds and hopes that in a few months he will have corn to pick. Can the corn grow without rain? Who sends the rain? How does the seed grow and who makes it grow? The farmer cannot control any of those things. Only the Sovereign Lord does.

**"A time to love and a time to hate."**

God is in control of love and hate? Yes. We are to love the things that God loves and hate the things that God hates. For example, God loves His Church, so we should love His Church. God hates lying, so we should also hate lying.

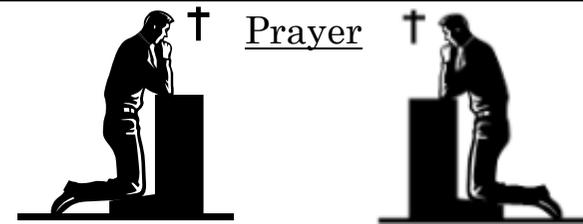
These are good reminders that we make all sorts of decisions, but the Lord controls all things. When we go through the ups and downs of life we need to remember we are creatures whose lives are very short. We need to trust in our eternal Creator.

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how." - Mark 4:26-27

## Wednesday Quiz

**Matching (Read these passages for help: Gen. 21 & 42, 1st Samuel 1, 1 Kings 22, Acts 28)**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 2. ____ Hannah and Sarah | A. Bit by a poisonous snake and was not hurt.                                     |
| 3. ____ Paul             | B. Tried to escape death with a disguise, but God guided an arrow into his heart. |
| 4. ____ Ahab             | C. Forced to go to Egypt when food would not grow.                                |
| 5. ____ Sons of Jacob    | D. Could not have children until the Lord did a miracle.                          |



Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord Jesus, help me to trust you. Please humble me when I consider that you control everything. Help me to love the things you love and hate the things you hate."

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

Mr. Paul and Mrs. Erica Simone: Imagine you live in a place where Bibles, churches, and pastors are all illegal. You know nothing about Jesus, but one day you turn on your radio and hear the word of God. Wouldn't that be wonderful? The Simone family sets up radio stations, so the gospel can go places that it is not allowed. "...the word of God is not bound." - 2 Timothy 2:9

