



Message Discussion Guide Week of July 2, 2023

Message: Word to the Wise, Part 5: Making the Most of the Time

Key Scriptures: [Ecclesiastes 3:1-14](#)

Preacher: Pastor Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

God has created us to be bound by space and time.

- Space – We are local beings. We cannot be more than one place at a time. God is *omnipresent*, not bound by space.
- Time – We are temporal. We have a beginning and an end. We cannot change the past or know the future. We can only influence the present moment. God is outside of time – He is in the past, present, and future.

To be wise, we must ask, “How can I make the most of the time I have been given?”

Ecclesiastes 3 is the most well-known passage in Ecclesiastes. It poetically lists the wide variety of things that can happen in time, demonstrating that time rolls on and there is nothing we can do to stop it.

When we consider our limited time, it is easy to despair and wonder what it all means.

Ecclesiastes 3 provides wisdom for making the most of the time:

1. Remember that you are a creature of time who was made for eternity.
2. God holds the future – We cannot know the future, only God knows. This should bring us to God’s presence in awe and surrender.
3. Invest in God’s future – the best use of time is to give to that which has eternal value.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) How would you describe your relationship with time? Do you feel like you use your time well? Why do so many of us feel so limited by the clock?
- 2.) Pastor Tom reflected that when we are young, we want the time to go faster, and when we are old, we want it to slow down. Do you find that to be true in your experience? Why is that? What can we learn from it?
- 3.) Read [Ecclesiastes 3:1-14](#). What do you hear in these verses that inspires you? What resonates with you? What challenges you?
- 4.) “We are creatures of time, made for eternity.” What does this statement mean? How can you invest in eternal things during the temporal moments of this life?
- 5.) What is your primary takeaway from this message? How will this message challenge, inspire, and impact your faith this week?

Abundant Life Tip: You were made for eternity. The best way to use your time is to invest it in that which has eternal significance.