



+ MY LIFE ACCORDING TO ME
ECCLESIASTES 3:11



COMMON GROUND

MY LIFE ACCORDING TO ME.
ECCLESIASTES 3:11

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HOW WE DETERMINE OUR SIGNIFICANCE.

CONNECT. STUDY. DISCIPLE. SERVE | WED @ 6:00 PM | GBYOUTH.COM | BE SOCIAL



GBYOUTH.COM

Context | Ecclesiastes

The Book of Ecclesiastes

A literature of wisdom

Author: believed to be Solomon (his name is not mentioned in the text)

Date: around 935 BC (late in his life)

To: his immediate subjects but all people everywhere

Setting: Solomon is reflecting on his life, much of which was lived apart from God.

Themes: Searching, emptiness, work, death & wisdom.

Key Verse: 12:13 Here is my final conclusion: fear God and obey His commandments, for this is the entire duty of man.

Text | Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

A Time for Everything

- 1** There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2** a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3** a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4** a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5** a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from
embracing,
- 6** a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7** a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8** a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.
- 9** What do workers gain from their toil? **10** I have
seen the burden God has laid on the human race. **11**
**He has made everything beautiful in its time. He
has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no
one can fathom what God has done from
beginning to end.**

Overview | Where We are Headed

In our last session, Mallory Sammons shared her testimony. Therein, she painted how God gloriously liberated her from an intense season of darkness in her life.

At the very heart of our experiences (high and low) is our understanding of purpose and meaning; how we define and live out who we believe we are. As our creator, God gives us that definition. The Creator is intentional in what/how He creates. He breathes purpose and meaning into our very being. He illuminates before us a path of truth for us to walk in alignment with His design. But we also have an adversary who sews before us the counterfeit to frustrate and disrupt our walk with God.

Will we look to the creation or the Creator for the answers to life's questions? Who am I? Who will I become? What will satisfy me in my life? Tonight we will explore our foundational questions and God's foundational answer.

Let's move!

The Search | For Meaning

- **A question that must be asked**
 - ***Ecclesiastes 1:3***
3 What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?
 - What is the purpose, the reason, the meaning, the gain of life?
 - This is a foundational question that every human (deist or atheist) asks.
 - Even the atheist, senses something beyond the existential.
 - Even the Christian needs to be reminded
 - *Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren
 - This is the foundational theme for the book of Ecclesiastes.
- **A question that must be answered**
 - It is a question that a youth must answer
 - As passions are awakened
 - As skills are sharpened
 - As relationships are drawn
 - ***Ecclesiastes 12:1***
1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—
 - Ultimately, what we chase in life and where it takes us is determined by how we define *meaning*.
 - It almost sounds like a *worldview* thing doesn't it?

My Life | According to Me

- **The experience and beauty**

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

- A Time for Everything***

- 1*** *There is a time for everything,*

- and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

- 2*** *a time to be born and a time to die,*

- a time to plant and a time to uproot,*

- 3*** *a time to kill and a time to heal,*

- a time to tear down and a time to build,*

- 4*** *a time to weep and a time to laugh,*

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

- 5*** *a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,*

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

- 6*** *a time to search and a time to give up,*

- a time to keep and a time to throw away,*

- 7*** *a time to tear and a time to mend,*

- a time to be silent and a time to speak,*

- 8*** *a time to love and a time to hate,*

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

- **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

- 11*** *He has made everything beautiful in its time...*

- We live in an awesome life experience

- We live in a beautiful world

- But, it's a fallen and dying world that brings tremendous complexity and frustration

- **The confusion**

- Our culture has become fixated on experience and devoid of meaning.

- i.e. The Role of Sex
 - i.e. The Role of Gender
 - i.e. The Role of Family

- Culture has removed the Creator and the Authority.
 - **Psalm 118:22**
22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
 - **2 Timothy 4:3-4**
3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.
 - This is a dangerous vacuum.

- **The delusion**
 - Self becomes the authority.
 - Self will determine what is morally right.
 - This is called relative truth (or moral relativism) and we have to see it for what it is.
 - It's *My Life According to Me*.
 - Self becomes the moral judge.
 - **Isaiah 14:13**
13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon."
 - **Genesis 3:4-5**
4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
 - **Romans 1:25**
25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.
 - Looking horizontally for meaning instead of vertically.

My Life | According to God

• God's warning

- We must guard ourselves that we do not become seduced by the world.

- **1 John 2:15-17**

15 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

• God's image

- God creates us intentionally and purposefully

- **Genesis 1:26**

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

- **Psalms 139:13-16**

*13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

*your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

*16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

- **God's authority**

- The Creator is the transcendent, objective authority
- **Ecclesiastes 12:1**
1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—
- **Job 38:4-6**
4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—"
- **Romans 9:20-21**
20 But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?
- **Isaiah 64:8**
8 Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

- **God's eternity**

- Vanity! Vanity! This earth is passing away.
 - **Ecclesiastes 3:11**
*11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has also set eternity in the human heart;** yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*
 - **Matthew 24:35**
35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
- The beauty we see is but a glimpse of His glory. This life we experience is but a taste of eternity. Man senses there is something beyond the experiential. Because there is.

Discussion | Q & A

- 1.) Is *searching for purpose & meaning* typical for a teenager to do? Or do you think that is something that occurs later in life? Why or why not?
- 2.) How does our definition of meaning affect the direction of our path?
- 3.) Talk about the culture's focus on beauty and experience. What happens when we adopt this focus?
- 4.) What kind of confusion do we see when the Creator is removed? What confusion do you see regarding sex, gender, family?
- 5.) Why is the world so enticing? Why would man abandon the eternal to chase after the perishing?
- 6.) Why is God (as Creator) so important to us? How can we know that we can trust His design & purpose for our life?



COMMON GROUND

CONNECT. STUDY. DISCIPLINE. SERVE. | GBYOUTH.COM |

