

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Matthew 4.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 "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." (ESV)

In chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon writes: "There is a time for every event under heaven." And then he gives examples of the seasons we face: birth and death, planting and harvesting, killing and healing, weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing, etc. These are not necessarily seasons we plan out, but still, they are the events we call "life."

And for all the good times we have, there are the days we wish we could stay in bed, pull the covers up over our heads, and just shut the world out, escaping the stress and strain of life.

Solomon says, God has put the desire for eternity into the heart of man, but we cannot go back to the beginning and watch creation happen, nor can we look ahead and see the end of all things, but wherever we are in the timeline of eternity, we can see the beauty, the intricacies of nature, and know the hand of God is still at work today. Man will never be satisfied in life apart from a relationship with God, all is chasing after the wind.

Paul reminds us in Romans 8:28 that God is "causing all things to work together for good," and here Solomon reminds us that God is creating beauty, in spite of the off seasons we face. As we go through the seasons of life, we look for the redeeming hand of God. We trust in the heart of God to give us "a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." (Is. 61:3)