

ECCLESIASTES

The Frustration and Gift of Life

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

1. Ecclesiastes argues that pleasure and comforts won't deliver the joy we expect them to and it also argues that "changing the world" results in the same (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19). Why do you think Christian leaders talk about "changing the world" so much if this is the case? Should we aim to "change the world"? Why or why not?

2. Would you say that most people you know expect life to be full of both joys and sorrows? Why or why not? How should knowing life is both full of joys and sorrows influence those who are pessimistic and cynical? How should it influence those who think that following Jesus means being happy all the time?

3. Why do we want to know how all the appointed seasons in our lives fit into the overall whole story of what God is doing? Why is it hard to simply let God have this knowledge and leave it with him?

4. What does Ecclesiastes say about how we should live in such a burdensome world (see Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 and 3:12-13)? Do you find such advice surprising? Why or why not?

5. How is Job's posture in Job 42:1-3 a good model for the Christian living with all sorts of questions about why life happens the way it does? How do we foster such an attitude? How did Job arrive at such an attitude?
