 **Lesson 6**

God-Given Seasons of Life

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-15*

Life can often feel like a roller coaster of experiences, with its myriad peaks and valleys, twists and turns. One day may overflow with elation, while the next day plunges into despair. Health can quickly pivot into sickness, and peaceful times can quickly become chaotic. If we have an “under the sun” mindset, these facts can be unsettling. We respond by trying to control our lives, steering out of difficult and into our comfort zones. And when our attempts to control it fail, we can spiral into frustration depression, and confusion.

In Ecclesiastes 3, the Preacher looks at all of these things from a “fear of God” mindset, and he sees incredible beauty, appropriateness, purposes, and order in the changing seasons of life. This is one of the most beautiful portions of Ecclesiastes. In it, we learn to **relinquish control in our God-given seasons of life**.

**Acknowledge your God-given seasons (vs. 1-8).**

* There are seasons of life and death (v. 2).
* There are seasons of destruction and restoration (v. 3).
* There are seasons of sorrow and joy (v. 4).
* There are seasons of pitching and gathering (v. 5a).
* There are seasons of closeness and distance (v. 5b).
* There are seasons of gain and loss (v. 6a).
* There are seasons of tearing up and fixing up (v. 7a).
* There are seasons of silence and speech (v. 7b).
* There are seasons of love and hate (v. 8a).
* There are seasons of war and peace (v. 8b).

*Other Notes:*

**Appreciate your God-given seasons (vs. 9-11).**

* God has given a meaningful work for you to do (v. 10).
* God has orchestrated a perfect beauty for you to see (v. 11a).
* God has embedded eternal longings in you to explore (v. 11b).

*Other Notes:*

**Accept your God-given seasons (vs. 12-15).**

* You can rejoice in them (vs. 12a, 13a).
* You can produce in them (vs. 12b, 13b).
* You cannot change them (v. 14a).
* God orchestrates them and deserves your fear (v. 14b).
* Only God fully understands them (v. 15).

*Other Notes:*

**Prayer**

**Scripture**: To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time…

Ecclesiastes 2:1, 11a

**College Student of the Night: Elizabeth Hill**

* Freshman at IBC
* Prayer Requests:
  + Staying up with homework and projects for this semester
  + Decisions for next semester and this summer

**Single Focus/Cross Impact Requests:**

* Cross Impact IUPUI, Purdue, Ball State, and UIndy
* Potential at IU, Marion, and Butler
* Single Focus (Connect, Grow, Serve)
* Sunday Soul-Winning Efforts

**Specific Requests:**

* Jack Elms, Kendall Elms, Jesiah Achenbach, and Max Garcia in military training/service
* Joseph LaPointe’s back and spirit
* Jessica’s Unsaved friend in Mormonism
* Sarah’s family’s salvation
* Aaron Bott and family- Soldier in Kuwait (Joe Forti’s friend)
* Ian’s unsaved family
* Julia as she lost her baby and is recovering from it all (Hau’s friend and co-worker).
* James as he recovers from his diabetic episode (Hau’s friend).
* Elizabeth’s coworker who is recovering from surgery and needs to have strong recovery.
* Ian’s grandmother going to pass away soon.

**Announcements:**

* February 17- NBA Allstar Weekend Hangout- $15- Meeting 12:15pm at church
* July 19-21- Kenosha Missions Trip Signup





**Order of Service for tonight:**

* **Opening Game**: February Facts
* **Message**: Pastor Andy
* **Songs**:
  + All I Have is Christ (pages 10-11)
  + Jesus, Thank You (page 160)
* **Announcements**:
* **Prayer**: