

Ecclesiastes 3.9-15

“Why Get Up on Monday Morning?”

Relentless SEARCH for PURPOSE & MEANING Continue in Ecclesiastes

VISITED lots of WEBSITES, heard lots of PROMISES – tried Newest APPS

Q like MICK JAGGER been singing “I Can’t Get No Satisfaction” > 50 years!

RE-ASKS Question - v. 9 What gain has the worker from his toil?

“Why Get Up on Monday Morning?”

Asks QUESTION he Already Asked – Does my Job, my Life, MEAN Anything?

So far, ANSWER is Pretty GRIM > Will DIE and leave All Treasures to Others!

1. Gain comes from God

a. Perspective

Q got out Right Side bed this Monday > Starting to see NOT All about HIM!

Ch 3 God-centered Perspective

v. 1 ...a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...

vs. 2-8 born and die...plant and uproot...kill and heal...tear down and build...
weep and laugh...mourn and dance...scatter stones and gather them...embrace
and refrain... search and give up...keep and throw away...tear and mend...be
silent and speak... love and hate...war and peace

IF any GAIN is going to be FOUND in our TOIL

God must have Something to do with it

vs. 10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be
busy with.

NOT JUST Business We Built – Henry Ford or Jack Ma – GOD GAVE to Men

PILLARS are God’s Providential Blessing – Foundation is HIS Faithfulness

Calling of MANKIND is to be BUSY in the BUSINESS of God

b. Perfection

v. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Of course BEAUTIFUL is FIRST and FOREMOST a VISUAL Term

When God says JOB'S DAUGHTERS were Beautiful they were HOTTIES!

But Beautiful ALSO Describes PERFECTIONS of God – HE is Beautiful

And we SEE His Beauty is Good, Right, Orderly, Faithful, Pleasing, Joyful

POEM in vs 1-8 describe BEAUTY of God's TIMING – Right on Time

War and Peace – Leave and Embrace – Planting and Harvest – Begin and End

When you're 64 years old FILLED w/ SPIRIT of God > Perfections of His Time

Place WANTED to Go would've NOT Worked Out like you SO MUCH Hoped

PERSON wanted to Marry would've Never been Soul-Mate/Life-Partner Needed

DISAPPOINTING change in DIRECTION was DIVINE Appointment

KNOWING God is in CONTROL NOT always Make us HAPPY

PLACE of his APPOINTMENT might be TIME of SOUL-SURGERY!

Make things RIGHT – RESTORE your Testimony and TRUST in Living God

v. 11 man...cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

We WALK by Faith NOT by Sight – TRUST even when Don't FEEL lik it

The human being has eternity in his heart – his creator has made him a thinking being, and he wants to pass beyond his fragmentary knowledge and discern the fuller meaning of the whole pattern – but the Creator will not let the creature be his equal.

John Jarick

c. Pleasure

1 Corinthians 15 APOSTLE Paul talks about People who DENY Resurrection

If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

1 Corinthians 15.32

Like PEGGY LEE – If that’s all there is...Let’s have a PARTY and ENJOY

That ESCAPE and DENIAL is NOT what is being Proposed in vs. 12,13

Rather WE ARE invited to ENJOY the GOOD GIFTS of God

Many EARTHY OT Descriptions of GRACE has GOOD GRUB and GLOG BANQUET of the LORD that is LAVISHLY Spread by His Saving GRACE

vs. 12,13 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man

IF World BEYOND is UNKNOWABLE, then MAKE MOST of the PRESENT

NO Certainty of JUSTICE NOW, or in FUTURE > ENJOY the NOW

We are prompted by our own ills to contemplate the good things of God; and we cannot seriously aspire to him before we begin to become displeased with ourselves.

John Calvin

2. God remains God

a. Omniscience

John Wesley preached thru book of Ecclesiastes and CONCLUDED...

“Never before had I so clear a sight either of its meaning or beauties. Neither did I imagine, that several parts of it were in so in so exquisite a manner connected together, all tending to prove the grand truth, that there is no happiness out of God.”

John Wesley

ALL peoples “under the sun” or “under heaven” or “on earth” more than 35 X’s LIMITED Horizon Line of HUMAN Search, HOPE beyond RADAR Screens

vs. 14,15 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it...That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been

God ensures that the events which have just transpired do not vanish into thin air. God brings them back once more, so that the past circles into the present.

James L. Crenshaw

God has no abortive enterprises or forgotten men. Derek Kidner

TAPESTRY – Ragged Threads woven Together – Perfect Picture

NOTHING Wasted that has been GIVEN to God – We just Thought it Lost

Timeless Eternity – Complete Picture of Seeing All of Life under/in God

...we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

1 Corinthians 2.7-10

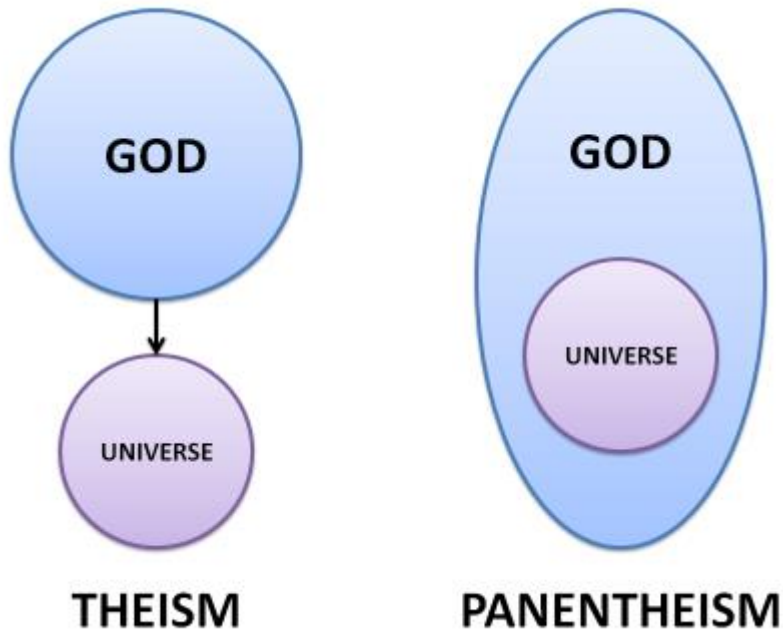
God seeks out what has been driven away, that is to say that God recalls occurrences which have moved from the present into the future and thence into the past so that they may be recycled eventually in a new present.

Joseph Blenkinsopp

b. Oneism and Twoism

God is in heaven and you are on earth.

Ecclesiastes 5.2



Dr. Peter Jones, www.truthxchange.com

We live in a very “spiritual” world, but it is important to know which spirituality you adopt - there are only two spiritualities:

worshiping and serving something “inside” creation (what I call “Oneism”), where all reality is the same and thus one, or,

worshiping and serving the God who stands “outside” creation (“Twoism”).

Reality is made up of two kinds of being: the Creator, a majestic personal being with no beginning, who is different from us; and creation, of which we are a part. We have a beginning and are limited by space and time.

Whether spirituality comes from the inside or the outside makes a huge difference in everything we do and think. Are we alone in this vast impersonal cosmos, making our own rules, evolving (we hope) for the good of all?

Or, are we part of a vast, intelligently made universe that is the work of a personal, distinct and glorious Creator, who has reached down in the redeeming love of Jesus to rescue us from ourselves?

Dr. Peter Jones, www.truthxchange.com

...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. Romans 1.25

The marginalization of religious belief in our world has led to “disenchantment.” While God’s revelation in creation was obvious to prior generations, we completely miss the sacred things revealed in the way the world is made and ordered. Charles Taylor, "A Secular Age"

Q. does A LOT of MOANING & MUTTERING but he gets this MAIN Point
When Q questions if his WORK has any VALUE he thinks about GOD

God is Central Reference pt – ULTIMATE Measurement is His Standard

When take EXAM there is ONE Thing that Matters

Not how FAR Traveled to Examination Room

Not that STAYED UP all Night to Study

Not that you really FELT GOOD After taking the Exam

Not that you were most HANDSOME Man in the Examining Room

ONLY thing that Matters about EXAM is your SCORE? – Did Pass or Fail?

When GO to Doctor’s OFFICE you might FEEL GREAT – Not Care in World!

Suggest BLOOD Test cannot imagine WHY but you Agree – He’s the Doctor!

Sit DOWN for LAB Results say you have CANCER – How could that Be!?

Feel Good – Sleeping Well – Eating Well – Happy and Busy! – Horoscope Good

TESTS are no RESPECTER of Persons --- Just the FACTS, What’s Going On!

Maybe DON’T Like IT – Think it’s NOT FAIR – Wish you COULD Change It

But whoever SET the EXAM makes the RULES > Fate in THEIR Hands!

Just MIGHT Be person NEVER Thought Of --- Or, Trying HARD to IGNORE
 Most IMPORTANT Person in Every Aspect of your LIFE and ETERNITY
 Like the DETERMINING NORTHSTAR of TEST SCORES...

All of Human HISTORY & DESTINY Measured by God – Father, Son, H.S.

We are permitted to taste the bitter wormwood of earthly streams, in order that, standing by the heavenly fountain, we may point our fellow sinners to the world of vanity we have left and to the surpassing glory and delights of the world we have newly found. Charles Bridges

3. Grace comes from God

a. Fear

v. 14 I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. *God has done it, so that people fear before him*

Q gives us PREVIEW of the END of the BOOK...

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man Ecclesiastes 12.13

God controls the times – past, present, future – bound together in Him

How can we NOT Fear Him as the Sovereign?

Fear God in order to turn a vain, empty life into a meaningful life that will enjoy God's gifts. Sidney Greidanus

v. 11 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

We have LOST Wonder of GOD > Not sure if we BELIEVE EXISTS

Pretty SURE we Don't FEAR God – Too Little Evidence

We are HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL, RESULT of Hard Work AND Initiative

Lived almost 30 years in USA Never Met Anyone who told Me about Anyone killed KILLED by Lightening

Then MOVED to Small Beautiful Country filled with Lakes/Rivers and some of MOST Lightning in WORLD – Meet New Friends >

Family, Friends KILLED by Lightning

Uganda suffers approximately 70 lightning strikes per kilometer a year

One of HIGHEST Rates of Lightning Strike Deaths in WORLD

Lived for 8 years > Looked for COVER when Skies grew Dark with RAIN

Made sure when RAIN Fell we GRABBED our 3 Sons and Went INSIDE

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 1.7

b. Forgiveness

v. 15 That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

God is Looking to RECOVER the PAST > God of Judgment AND Redemption

God ensures that the events which have just transpired do not vanish into thin air. God brings them back once more, so that the past circles into the present.

James L. Crenshaw

Q got out of bed on the Right Side this Monday --- NEW Hope to go to WORK!

God has no abortive enterprises of forgotten men. Derek Kidner

God is looking to redeem the past, and not simply to render judgment. By his grace he will recover and restore what seems, from one vantage point, to be lost forever. Eternal redemption is our hope whenever we feel caught between time and eternity. What we do in life matters. The work of God endures forever, especially good work we are busy doing in the name of Jesus. Philip Ryken

The day is coming when everything sad will come untrue. J. R. R. Tolkien

Lots of Sadness - OCT 1 – Watched DAY of WORSHIP in TMN Sq.

Worship of WAR – Worship of MAN – Worship of TRANSIENT Achievements

May think ATHEISTS don't Worship – MAO their god and creator was praised!

But god who is MERE MAN will Never Carry you thru Challenges of LIFE

Surely mere MAN can NEVER take you BEYOND this MORTAL LIFE

Some 1,500 years ago, the warrior-chief of a primitive, Germanic tribe bluntly questioned a visiting missionary,

“Why should I believe in this Jesus that you tell me about?”

The man of God answered, “Because in Jesus Christ you will find wonder upon wonder — and all true.”

O Lord, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: “Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit. Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!” “Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the Lord.”

Jeremiah 16.19-21

The God who steers us into his future is a God whose trustworthiness has been thoroughly proven – by Jesus Christ and by all who have truly followed him.

David Allan Hubbard

Ecclesiastes 3⁹What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He 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. ¹²I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. ¹⁴I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. ¹⁵That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.