

STRUGGLING WITH SEASONS OF LIFE

Week 3/10 in the series *Ecclesiastes*

May 11, 2014 · *Ecclesiastes 3:1-15* · Pastor Robb Williams

Today's text is the most well-known and most repeated in all *Ecclesiastes*. As deep as it is... (*and it is*)... it can bring some spectacular rest to weary souls. We often wake and struggle with ideas, people, emotions and plans (*you know, the seasons of life*)... only to find out over and over that all these things are out of our hands. You and I have as much chance of fully resting in a satisfaction in life today as any other time, no matter our season in life.

1. **The big universal monotonous picture** (*Ecclesiastes 2:1-8*)!
These pessimistic-sounding 14 couplets cover the whole range of human activity and set up some great optimism.
2. **The big picture is dwarfed by God** (*Ecclesiastes 3:9-11*).
Not so much that there is a time for everything, but that God has appointed a time for everything.
3. **Our response is to God, not to the big picture** (*Ecclesiastes 3:12-15*).
We may not understand the big picture, but so long as we know God, it is all okay.

Application

Have you acknowledged your trust in God?
Are we living focused, rather than life-focused?

NEXT WEEK: Week 4/10 · *Ecclesiastes 4:1-16*
Relationships · Pastor Robb Williams

Growth Group Notes

STRUGGLING WITH THE SEASONS OF LIFE

Use the following notes in your Growth Group or for further personal study of today's message. We hope these will enrich and deepen your walk as you study God's Word.

GETTING STARTED:

1. What specific ideas, plans, people or emotions are you dealing with during this season in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER:

2. *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8* gives us a big picture of life... and leaves us feeling a little pessimistic. But if we continue on, what is the positive point we often miss? (*Ecclesiastes 3:9-11*)
3. If we don't need to know the big picture, what do we focus on if we want to find peace in the seasons of life? (*Ecclesiastes 3:12-15*; *Philippians 4:11-13*)

APPLICATION:

4. Have you acknowledged your trust in God? Are you living focused or life-focused?

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. -- Matthew 11:28-29

Looking for the next step to build relationships? Be part of a Growth Group—the best way to develop significant, Christ-centered relationships at Verde! Contact Pastor Dave at david@verdebaptist.com.