

That Wonderful Plan for Your Life

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ecclesiastes 3.
- B. There is an appropriate time for everything.
- C. God has a wonderful plan for your life.

II. God desires to bring joy into the human experience.

- A. Sets of opposites reflect the different parts of the man—body, soul, spirit.
- B. The first set of opposites relates to the body.
 - 1. There are boundaries to life that no one can escape.
 - 2. There is a cycle for planting and nourishment.
 - 3. There is a process of decay and healing in our bodies.
 - 4. There is a time for strengthening and breaking down for the body.
- C. The second set of opposites deals with the soul—our relationships with others.
 - 1. There is a time for proper rejoicing and mourning.
 - 2. There is a time to build up relationships.
 - 3. There is a time to support people and a time to say no.
- D. The third set of opposites deals with the spirit.
 - 1. Most of the problems in our life relate to our spirits.
 - 2. There is a time to seek new friends and a time to let them go.
 - 3. There is a time to tear up old things and build up new things.
 - 4. There is a time for silence and a time to speak up.
 - 5. There is a time to love our enemies and friends and a time to hate the flesh, cruelty, etc.
 - 6. There is a time for war and a time for peace.
- E. All of this is in God's plan—even unpleasant circumstances are used for good.

IV. The purpose of these things.

A. The business of man is to live life.

B. God has made everything beautiful in its time

1. Everything is right in its time

2. There is a rhythm to life.

C. God has put eternity into man's heart—he is different from animals.

1. God speaks to the deep hunger in the human heart.

2. Man is the only worshipping animal.

D. There is a mystery about the world and God that remains. We must learn to live life as a little child and trust the Father accordingly.

V. God's purpose for man is to...

A. Take lasting pleasure in God.

B. Have respect for Him, which should cause us to discover Him.

C. Bring back what has already been. He repeats His lessons to us until we get them straight.

VI. Objections.

A. Though there is injustice, it is not the end of the story. God has appointed a time when all of this will be brought out.

B. Though there is injustice, there will come a time when we will all die because we are frail.

C. Only God can help a person to understand what is beyond life, but this is the secret to enjoyment.

Application questions:

1. How might it help someone to know that there is balance in many things?

2. Which set of opposites stands out to you? What strikes you?

3. Why are negative things important for the life of the believer? Explain.
