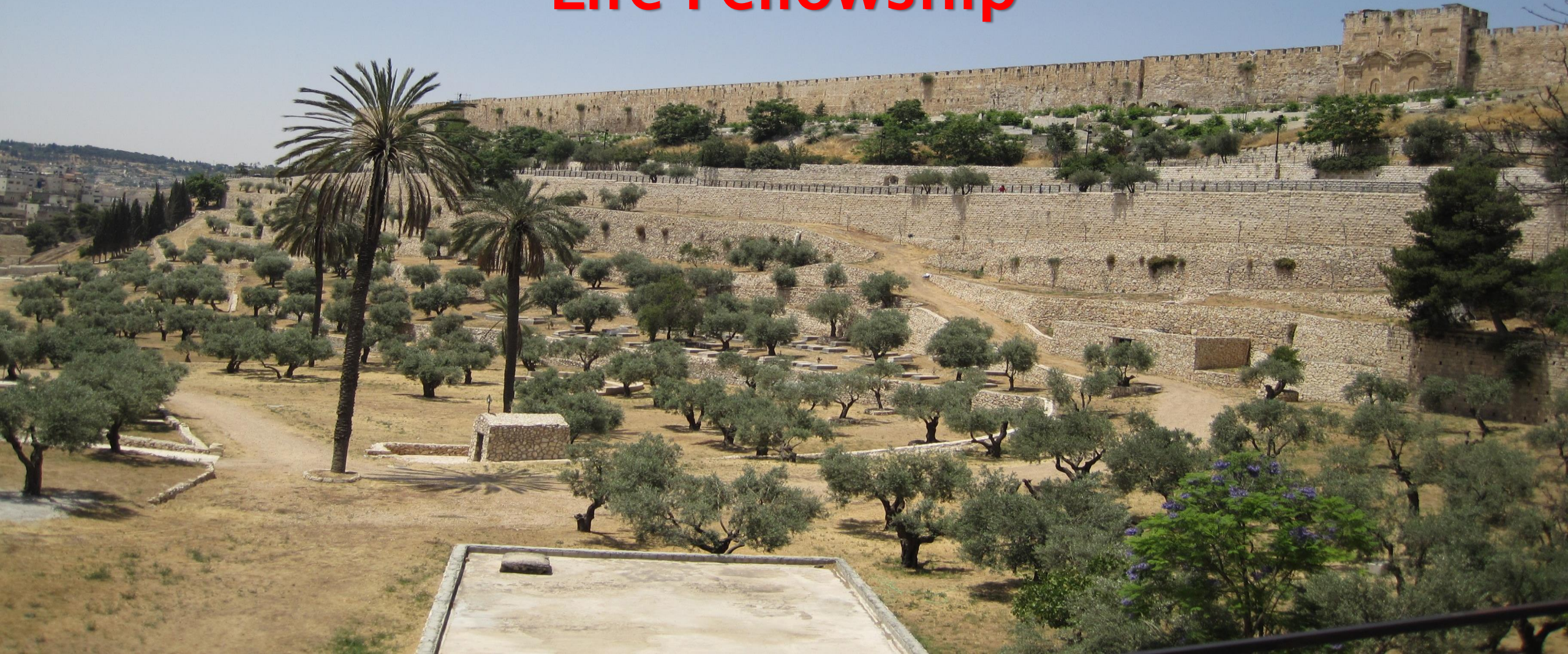


# The Book of Ecclesiastes

## Life Fellowship





## Ecclesiastes Chapter 3

## A. The vanity of our inability to control time

Ecc 3:1 To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Ecc 3:2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is* planted;

Ecc 3:3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

Ecc 3:4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

Ecc 3:5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;


Ecc 3:6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

Ecc 3:7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Ecc 3:8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecc 3:9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

Ecc 3:10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.



1. Time was created by God (when he created the sun, moon and stars) so we humans could keep track of our events.
2. Everything has its season and we humans, for the most part, do not control those seasons (like birth or death or when spring comes...).
3. For example, no matter how hard we work we cannot change the time of our death

Ecc 8:8 Says; *There is* no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither *hath he* power in the day of death: and *there is* no discharge in *that* war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

## B. God does control time and there is excellency in what He does

Ecc 3:11 He hath made every *thing* beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

Ecc 3:12 I know that *there is* no good in them, but for *a man* to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

Ecc 3:13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it *is* the gift of God.

Ecc 3:14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth *it*, that *men* should fear before him.

Ecc 3:15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

# Psalms 19

Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Psa 19:2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

Psa 19:3 *There is* no speech nor language, *where* their voice is not heard.

Psa 19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Psa 19:5 Which *is* as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

Psa 19:6 His going forth *is* from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.





## C. God Shall Judge Man's Works.

Ecc 3:16 And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, *that* wickedness *was* there; and the place of righteousness, *that* iniquity *was* there.

Ecc 3:17 I said **in mine heart**, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for *there is* a time there for every purpose and for every work.

Ecc 3:18 I said **in mine heart** concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

1. Verse 16 Shows that men know that they will be judged and that often man's judgment is unjust.
2. Verse 17 Solomon clearly understands that there is a just judgment to come ....from God.
  - Every part of the globe, every religion. Man has a conscience. – look at the phrase **“in my heart”**


### 3. Without a savior, man is filthy in sin against God – men see themselves as beasts.

Isaiah said when he encountered God:

Isa 6:5 Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Peter said when he encountered Jesus:

Luk 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.



## 4. Paul wrote in Romans the only way to righteousness is through Jesus Christ:

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

## D. The Vanity of Death.

Ecc 3:19 For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all *is* vanity.

Ecc 3:20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

Ecc 3:21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

Ecc 3:22 Wherefore I perceive that *there is* nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that *is* his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

# 1. At death, your body immediately starts the decay back to dust:


Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.



## 2. Your Spirit (life) immediately returns to God:

Ecclesiastes 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.



## C. Your Soul (if a Christian) is immediately present with the Lord:

2Cor 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.



4. Your soul if not a Christian is sent directly to Hell:

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.




## Ecclesiastes Chapter 4

## A. Vanity of Power and Oppression.

**Ecc 4:1** So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of *such as were* oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors *there was* power; but they had no comforter.

**Ecc 4:2** Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive.

**Ecc 4:3** Yea, better *is he* than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

1. No comforter– no Jesus and no Holy Spirit for unbelieving
  2. Yes – the world is evil and oppressive now BUT the believer can never think that he is better off dead or not having been born.
  3. Regardless of the situation – the believer brings glory to God throughout his life, and forever after.
  4. Unsaved people should not seek death – because life is keeping them out of hell.
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## B. The vanity of Envy



Ecc 4:4 Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This *is* also vanity and vexation of spirit.

## C. The vanity of idleness

Ecc 4:5 The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.

Ecc 4:6 Better *is* an handful *with* quietness, than both the hands full *with* travail and vexation of spirit.

## D. The vanity of the workaholic



Ecc 4:7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.

Ecc 4:8 There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

You have to decide – **are you living to work, or working to live?**  
Is your goal **MAXIMUM** money – or money enough to support your family and ministry?





## E. The Benefit of friendship, and marriage.

Ecc 4:9 Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

Ecc 4:10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up.

Ecc 4:11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone?*

Ecc 4:12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

1. Christ sent disciples out 2 by 2.
2. We married people minister together.
3. With Christ, we are a 3 fold cord.



## F. The vanity of Honor and Power

Ecc 4:13 Better *is* a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.

Ecc 4:14 For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also *he that is* born in his kingdom becometh poor.

Ecc 4:15 I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead.

Ecc 4:16 *There is* no end of all the people, *even* of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.