



# LIVING LIFE BACKWARD

How Ecclesiastes Teaches Us to Live Life in Light of the End

# BASED ON A BOOK BY THAT NAME

DAVID GIBSON

LIVING LIFE  
BACKWARD

HOW ECCLESIASTES TEACHES US

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TO LIVE IN LIGHT OF THE END ◀◀

# INTRODUCTION TO WEEK 3

- Previous Themes:
  - Ch 1 – Vanity (vapor)
  - Ch 1-2 – Lack of fulfillment in pursuits
- Today: Ch 3 – Experiences of life
  - Poetry!
  - The poetry's follow-up



# ECCLESIASTES 3

- “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven...”

# THE POETRY (3:1-8)

- Rhythm
- Opposites
- Beauty (v. 11)
- Poetic representation of how we experience life
- "God has made everything beautiful in its time" but not always so that we can see that beauty (v. 11b)

## THEN... VERSE 9

- Vs. 1-8 by themselves could be the observations of any poet
- But they are not by themselves!
  
- We still haven't escaped the problem of death or the problem of meaning
  - The rhythm of life is not a solution
  - Sadly, beauty is not a solution (well, not in itself)
  - Experiencing a full life is not a solution
  
- But the Preacher doesn't leave us there...

# COMFORTS

- God's eternity (v. 11, 14)
- God's gift (v. 12-13)
  - Compare this to a familiar slogan...

# QUESTION

- “Life is short. Eat more donuts.” –Kroger Bakery Department
- Is this what the Preacher is saying?



# COMFORTS

- God's eternity (v. 11, 14)
- God's gift (v. 12-13)
- God's memory (v. 15)
- God's judgement (v. 16-17)



# CHALLENGES

- Things will not always be as they are now
- Prepare for the season to come

# WHAT'S UP WITH THE ANIMALS?

- Similar in death and remembrance (dust to dust)
- Different in spirits' destinations and concern to God
- We can work on earth without having to stake our hopes for significance on the earthly results



# THE POINT

- The point of the poem is not that season follows season, good follows bad, the Circle of Life, etc., but to portray life as we experience it and then compare it with God's view.
- God is ordering the experiences and changes of our lives wisely and beautifully, but in a way that we cannot always fully see how they are wise or beautiful.



# DISCUSSION