

Questions On Ecclesiastes 3

1. Verses 1 through 8 of this chapter talk about there being a *time for* various actions or a time for the exercise of various qualities. What pattern is followed in the citing of these various things?
 - a) These verses teach that earthly pursuits are good and right but only in their proper _____ (and order).
 - b) Verse 11 also mentions “time.” How so?
2. Verse 9 speaks of the potential of working, but working *unprofitably*. We already noticed that profitable work involves proper timing. Using statements and principles found in verses 11-14, what other things can be added to labor to make it profitable and purposeful?
3. You may have been included this as one of your answers to question 2, but what has God “set” in the human “heart?” (v. 11)
4. What is God’s “gift” to man in Ecclesiastes 3:13?
 - a) What is God’s greater “gift” to mankind according to Ephesians 2:8?
5. As we learned from chapter 2, earthly works and accomplishments are temporal. How does this compare to God’s works according to verse 14?
6. What old expression summarizes verse 15?

7. Verse 16 speaks of wickedness sometimes being sometimes found in places of “justice” and in places of “righteousness.” What “places” would this represent? (In Solomon’s day and now in ours?)
 - a) Though in this life wickedness might be found in places of justice and righteousness, what is their ultimate fate according to verse 17?

8. Verses 18-21 compare humans with beasts. In what ways are humans like beasts according to verse 19?
 - a) With regard to mere *physical* life, do humans have an advantage over beasts? (19) (note that giant tortoises, bowhead whales and many bacteria live longer than humans)

 - b) What phrase in verse 20 (used also in Genesis 3:19 and by Solomon later in Ecclesiastes 12:7) proves that Solomon is here comparing humans and animals only in their physical aspect?

9. What question does Solomon ask in 3:21 that he later answers in 12:7?

10. Verse 22 takes us back to the conclusion in 2:10, 24 and 3:13. What conclusion was this and what additional duty is attached to it in 3:14?