

The Tyranny of Time | Ecclesiastes 3:1-17

Oxford Baptist Church - Nov 21st, 2021

Background | Ecc 1:1-3

- Ecclesiastes has a negative connotation
- The author and teacher are 2 separate people
- Repeated phrases in the book
 1. Meaningless/Vanity (Hevel literally meaning smoke/vapour)
 - Describes how life is temporary and fleeting - Ecc 6:12
 - Describes how life cannot be understood - Ecc 8:14
 2. Under the Sun
 - This shows that the teacher is looking for an answer apart from God
- There is no good news until chapter 12

Introduction | Ecc 3:1-17

- We are confronted with time
- Time enslaves us
- Our past fills us with guilt; the future is uncertain and brings anxiety so that we enjoy today
- Time tells us that we are running out of time; it is a crushing reality

Our Mortality | Ecc 3:1-2

- We are all going to die
- Our culture ignores death with entertainment
- Our culture tries to put off death
- Our culture friends to hide death
- Anything that kills time is killing us

Our Legacy | Ecc 3:9-13

- When we die, what do we leave behind?
- Our culture celebrated the legacies of important people
- What is your legacy? Your parents or grandparents?
- We only have a few years to leave a legacy before we're gone
- Trying to leave a long-lasting legacy reminds us time is running out

Our Eternal Destiny | Ecc 3:17

- What happens when we're out of time?
- Maybe we cease to exist
 - It's scary to think there will be nothing left of us in 100 years
- Scarier is facing God in judgement and giving an account for our lives
- We realize we don't have enough time to secure our eternal destiny

Hope | Ecc 3:11

- Can we find permanence when everything is fleeting?
- In a world without God, we cannot know the beginning from the end
- Jesus is the beginning and the end - Rev 21:6
- The gospel changes our view of time

Our New Mortality | John 10:10

- Jesus removes the burdens of our past and worries about the future so that we can live today
- Jesus came to bring us life!
- In the face of our mortality, we have a strong confidence or our future

Our New Legacy | 2 Cor 2:15

- Our lives no longer worry about our legacy but live for Jesus' legacy
- Our legacy is a reflection of Jesus
- Jesus legacy will never fade; it will be lasting

Our New Eternal Destiny | Rev 21:4

- Eternity is now secure is Jesus
- No longer scared of judgment
- We look forward to seeing God face to face with anticipation

Conclusion

Jesus fixes our past and prepares our future so that we can live today