

# life is short.

A Study from Ecclesiastes

Sunday, November 18, 2018 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

## PART 6: **IN ITS TIME**

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-15*

Life is full of **SEASONS**

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

There are seasons and rhythms to life.

Psalm 31:15; Hebrews 9:27; Galatians 6:9; Luke 1:20

Know the season you're in!

Acts 1:7; Luke 12:54-56; John 2:4, 7:6; Proverbs 15:23; Eccl. 8:5-6

that God is **ORCHESTRATING** for good,  
*Ecclesiastes 3:9-11*

**sovereignty** = "God's all-encompassing rule  
over the entire universe."

– Lexham Theological Wordbook

We don't (**and often won't**) know all the details.  
Ecc1. 3:11; Job 5:9, 42:3; Psalm 139:6; Romans 11:33

He works it all for **good** – *glory to glory!*  
Romans 8:28ff; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6

*beautiful in its time (3:11)*

we can enjoy life and **TRUST** him!  
*Ecclesiastes 3:12-15*

*"The chief end of man is to glorify God  
and to **enjoy** him forever!"*

– Westminster Shorter Catechism

See "Hymns for the Family of God" Hymnal – #364

**Psalm 100:3**

Acknowledge that *the Lord is God!*

*He made us, and we are his.*

*We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

# 1:10 COMMUNITY GROUP **HOMEWORK**

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## **GETTING STARTED**

1. Do you tend to see the glass half full or half empty?
2. What is your favorite season?
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-5.** Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

4. **Read Romans 8:28-39.** Consider reading it in multiple translations.
5. What confidence does **verse 28** give you about events that occur in your life?
6. Turn back a bit in **Romans 8** to **verse 18ff.** Do you feel the confidence you referenced in Question 5 when suffering comes your way? Or only good things? — Does God say that these bad things are actually good? (**v. 28**)
7. Look at **verses 29-30**, what five verbs describe what God has already done for you. Talk about each of these. How do they relate to God's sovereignty? (*See definition on page 2 of your notes.*)
8. What sorts of sufferings are you facing right now?
9. Romans is a letter. Imagine receiving this letter from Paul in the midst of your own sufferings (*referenced in Question 8*). How would/how do **verses 31-39** comfort you? (*The Romans were likely facing possible arrest, torture, and physical death for their faith in Christ.*)
10. Sometimes we can make our sufferings an idol. It sounds crazy (and is), but we can find our identity in our sufferings. We let them define us, and then our sufferings shape all of our thinking and behavior. — Have you seen this in people? What is the cure? Does this passage speak to it? How?
11. How could the forces in **verses 38-39** disrupt your trust in God's love for you? How could/do they keep you from truly believing and finding your identity in Jesus Christ?

## **UP CLOSE**

12. When has it been hardest for you to believe **Romans 8:28**?
13. What is the closest you have come to feeling the despair and loneliness of being separated from God like Paul describes in **verses 31-39**? What's the way out? (see **Philippians 4:4-9**)

Many of this weeks questions are variations of those in the Serendipity Study Bible, p. 1558.

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*Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them 1:10 Community Groups (the "1:10" comes from Colossians 1:10). The questions here are based on the sermon each week, and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a 1:10 Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.*

*During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.  
Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.*

## Neighboring Church

Pray this week for the ministry and people and pastors of Vineyard Community Church in Syracuse.

## Personal Prayer Items

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## Word Find for Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

1 For **everything there** is a **season**, a **time** for **every activity** under **heaven**. 2 A **time** to be **born** and a **time** to die. A **time** to **plant** and a **time** to **harvest**. 3 A **time** to **kill** and a **time** to **heal**. A **time** to **tear** down and a **time** to **build** up. 4 A **time** to cry and a **time** to **laugh**. A **time** to **grieve** and a **time** to **dance**. 5 A **time** to **scatter stones** and a **time** to **gather stones**. A **time** to **embrace** and a **time** to **turn away**. 6 A **time** to **search** and a **time** to **quit searching**. A **time** to **keep** and a **time** to **throw away**. 7 A **time** to **tear** and a **time** to **mend**. A **time** to be **quiet** and a **time** to **speak**. 8 A **time** to **love** and a **time** to **hate**. A **time** for war and a **time** for **peace**.

C	K	Q	S	G	R	I	E	V	E	Y	G	D
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K	I	L	L	P	L	T	H	R	O	W	D	P