

## NOTES Ecclesiastes 3: 7-8 NASB

### A. Introduction:

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon has drawn attention to the fact that life and our efforts in it will all come to an end. While the tone of Ecclesiastes can be perceived to say that all our efforts are in vain, Scripture tells us that serving God and growing His Kingdom is our purpose in every season. While earthly things will all pass away, our salvation and the eternal relationships that result from our efforts will not pass away. As we fellowship with the brethren (*Hebrews 10:25*), use our “talents” and abilities to reap growth in his Kingdom (*Matthew 25: 14-30*), teach repentance with forgiveness and love (*Matthew 18:15,35; Luke 15:11-32*) and comfort those who face trials we have faced (*2 Corinthians 1:4*), we serve a purpose. People come and go, phases of life will come and go, and if we live out a natural life, we could expect to experience each of these appointed times mentioned by Solomon in Ecclesiastes. As Christians, we are called to be ready for appropriate action, responding to situations or initiating actions with wisdom. Keep the following in mind as we study verses 7 & 8:

- 1) **Our times are “appointed” by God.**
  - a) Ecclesiastes 3:1, “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.”
- 2) **He’s in control, and we are not abandoned when we go through challenges. We are created for these times!**
  - a) In Romans 14:8, “for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore, whether we live or die, **we are the Lord’s.**”
  - b) In Esther 4:14, “And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?”

### B. Ecclesiastes 3:7-8

#### 1) **A time to tear apart and a time to sew together:**

##### (a) Sew to the Spirit

##### 1. Galatians 6:7-8

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

##### 2. Galatians 5: 22-23

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

##### (b) Tear apart from sin

##### 1. Remove Stumbling Blocks

##### a. Matthew 5:29-30

*If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*

##### b. 2 Corinthians 6: 14, 17

*vs. 14- Do not be bound together with unbelievers;*

*vs. 16 Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE, says the Lord.*

##### 2. Remove sinners who continue to boast in sin to bring sorrow that leads to repentance.

##### a. 2 Corinthians 7:9

*I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss*

b. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Paul writes that we are not to associate with immoral people, but he does not mean to avoid discussing Christ with those outside the church, for *“then you would have to go outside the world.”*

Vs.11- *But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler- not even to eat with such a one.*

Vs.13- *But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.*

(c) **Don't sew discord in the church.**

c. Proverb 6:19

*There are six things the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ...one who spreads strife.*

(d) Sew back together.

1. Prodigal son tore away, but the Father allowed him to be sewn back into the family.

a. Luke 15: The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, The Prodigal son

Vs. 10- *In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

Vs. 20- *So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.*

2) **A time to be silent and a time to speak:**

(a) Matthew 12:33-37: The tree is known by its fruit, either good or bad.

Vs.37- *For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned.*

(b) **Be Silent: Matthew 12:36: But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgement.**

1. *Do not gossip, attend to your own business.*
2. *Women don't exercise authority over men in worship (stay silent) but can collaborate to teach together in private.*
3. *Win husbands without a word, but teach children in the home.*
4. *Do not complain.*
5. *Be trustworthy to pray for those who confess sins to us and share scriptures to lead them to repentance. Cover over and do not share these sins of a repentant heart.*
6. *Do Justice for those who need to be defended, but keep silent to allow God's revenge for ourselves.*
7. *Do not blaspheme the Holy Spirit, the unforgivable sin.*

(c) **Speak with a clean heart - Matthew 12: 34: For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.**

1. *Speak in Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs to each other.*
2. *Don't let unwholesome words come from you.*
3. *Confess sins to the righteous person for prayers, but not to those who are unrighteous. (A confession of sins to the whole congregation isn't necessary.)*
4. *Always have a defense ready for why you believe the Gospel, but don't argue with a fool.*
5. *Confess Jesus before men, and don't be denied before God due to silence.*
6. *Speak comfort, reminding others of God's promises.*

3) **A time to love and a time to hate:**

(a) *Love as God loves*

1. John 3:16

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

2. Matthew 22:37-39 *And He said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and foremost commandment. The second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

3. Romans 5:5-10: Have a sacrificial love

Vs. 5- *The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Vs. 6- *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

Vs. 8- *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

(b) *Hate as God hates*

1. Proverbs 6: Six things the Lord hates, Seven which are an abomination to Him

*Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,*

*A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.*

4) **A time for war and a time for peace:**

(a) *War- Fight evil with good*

1. Ephesians 6:11

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

2. Hebrews 10:38

*But my righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*

(b) *Peace*

1. Romans 12:17-21

Vs.18- *So far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*

Vs. 19- *Never take your own revenge.. Vengeance is mine, I will Repay, says the Lord.*

Vs.20 *If your enemy is hungry feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink;*

Vs. 21- *Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.*

3. Matthew 5:9

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

4. Matthew 26:52

*Put your sword back in its place, Jesus said to him, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.*

5. Micah 6:8

*Do Justice, Love Kindness, and walk Humbly with your God.*

C. Conclusion:

In all things, and in each action you take as a Christian, you should:

1) **Be wise.**

- a. Ephesians 4: 15-17, "Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time,"

2) **Be on Guard.**

- a. Luke 21:34- Jesus urges us to, "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come upon you suddenly like a trap;"

3) **Let God's Word richly dwell in you.**

- a. Ephesians 5:19, "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;"
- b. Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
- c. 2 Corinthians 7:6, 9-10:
  - i. God comforts the depressed with Christian brothers and sisters.
  - ii. Also, sorrow that is according to the will of God produces repentance, leading to salvation, and can come from with Christian brothers and sisters.

4) **Put on Love.**

- a. Colossians 3:12, "put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other,"
- b. Colossians 3:14," Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

5) **Be Thankful!**

- a. Ephesians 5:20, "always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God,"

6) **Know Jesus and rest assured with His Peace!**

- a. *Matthew 5: The Beatitudes (The blessed)*
- b. Colossians 2:10, "and in Him you have been made complete" vs.12 "having been buried with Him in baptism."
- c. Matthew 11:28- Jesus said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.** For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
  - i. *Jeremiah 6:16*
- d. 1 Corinthians 8:3, "if anyone loves God, he is known by Him."
- e. Luke 12:7- Jesus said, "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear;"

**Colossians 3:12-17**

***"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."***