

# ETERNITY IN THE HEART

## *Ecclesiastes...The Search for a Christian Worldview*



## TIME FOR EVERYTHING *Ecclesiastes 3*

*“Through all experiences men have to pass because the time comes for them so to do The doctrine of God deduced from such a conception of the universe is of a Being who is absolutely inexorable, and from whom there can be no escape.”—G. Campbell Morgan*

**I**n the often-quoted and sometimes romanticized verses of this chapter, we find, not the answers to the mysteries of the soul. Rather, we hear the logical assessment of Solomon—“What does it all mean?” The voice heard is that of one who expresses the soul of humanism, cynicism, and fatalism. On the practical side, it is well to take a hard look at the time-factors of life. When the “eternity in the hearts of men” draws people to God-consciousness, the heart may cry out to God and find salvation (*Romans 10:9, 10*).



### DEMONSTRATING THE THESIS

#### I. THE LAWS OF GOD (*Ecclesiastes 3:1-15*)

- A. The Time Ballad (vs. 1-8)
  - 1. Fourteen time contrasts
- B. “Eternity in the hearts of men” (vs. 9-15)

*“We can look backward in time until the dim past vanishes, then turn and look into the future until thought and imagination collapse from exhaustion and God is at both points, unaffected by either.” —A. W. Tozer*

#### II. THE MORTALITY VOID (*3:16-22*)

- A. The faults of fatalism (vs. 16, 17)
- B. The fickleness of fate (vs. 18-21)
- C. The foolishness of folly (v. 22)

*“Only eternal values can give meaning to temporal ones. Time must be the servant of eternity.” —Erwin W. Lutzer*

#### FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION, and APPLICATION...

1. Compare Solomon’s worldview with that of the Lord Jesus Christ. How do they compare?
2. In verses 9 to 15, King Solomon voices a high view of God and His sovereign purposes. He also sees that life is constantly made up of options and decisions. Can these be reconciled?