

# God Has Made Everything Beautiful in Its Time

Ecclesiastes 3:1–15 | Page 554 in the Church Bibles

Our times are not in our hands;  
they are in the hands of Another.

Verse 1: A pronouncement,  
not a prescription: behind all  
our human activity, there is an  
all-encompassing plan and  
design.

**The most frequently repeated characteristic of God in the book of Ecclesiastes is his generosity!**

Verses 2–8: Fourteen pairs of extreme opposites which encompass everything in between.

“We readily acknowledge that there is an appropriate time for everything, but we have fairly formed opinions on when those times should be. The time to heal is any time someone is sick. The time to be silent is when I’m done speaking my mind. The time to die is at the end of a full life, not a moment before. But we see all around us that tragedy and comedy, birth and death, mourning and dancing present themselves seemingly at whatever time they choose. Human comprehension labors to make sense of it all.”

–Jen Wilkin

Verses 9–11: A burden God  
has laid on us.

Verses 14–15: There's nothing any human being can do to thwart God's beautiful design, and there's nothing any of us can do to make God's design more beautiful than it already is.

# How should we live this side of eternity?

## Fear the Lord!

- Commit your entire being to trust and to believe him.
- Dread nothing more than his displeasure.
- Want nothing more than to know him intimately and to submit to his will.

If you fear the eternal God...

1. You can have peace about your past.

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“Part of growing up in the world is learning to grow small.”

–David Gibson

If you fear the eternal God...

1. You can have peace about your past.
2. You can face your unknown future with confidence.
3. You can be fully present in the present—and experience real pleasure and joy in the simple gifts of God.

“All shall be well,  
and all manner of things shall be well.”

–Julian of Norwich