

**“A Time for Every Matter Under Heaven”**

*Sermon Notes*

➤ **Every rhythm known to man is written into the soundtrack of your life (Ecc 3:1)**

1.a. But you are not in control, as you are not the composer (Ecc 3:2-8)

1.b. Rather, God is the composer (Ecc 2:24; 3:10,13)

2.a. And you never get to play the same song on repeat (Ecc 3:2-8)

2.b. Yet have hope, God’s ‘greatest hits’ will endure (Ecc 3:14)

## MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of November 1st - 7th

This week, we're going to use the COMA method of studying the Bible, with some adaptation to our text, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. This method comes from Pastor David Helm in the book *One-to-One Bible Reading*.

### Context

*What type of writing is this (letter, narrative, poem, wisdom, etc.)? How does that impact our study?*

*Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the Preacher composed this wisdom poem?*

*Are there any clues about the audience who first heard these words? How would these words have landed on an Israelite? Are there potential idioms, phrases, cultural ideas they would have quickly grasped?*

### Observation

*What ideas are repeated?*

*What images, illustrations, or metaphors does the Preacher use? What does he mean by them?*

*What main observation does the Preacher help us make about life 'under heaven'?*

*How does the Preacher make his appeal? What is the tone of the passage? What emotions does the Preacher arouse in you?*

### Meaning

*The Preacher offers this main thesis: there is a fixed or appointed time for every human activity under heaven. How does he get us there? What "vanities" come with this reality?*

*What does this passage teach us about God? What is the Preacher's worldview underneath this poem - look at Ecc 2:24, 26 and 3:10, 11, 13?*

*How does the passage look forward to Jesus, and life under the Son (example: consider Mark 1:15; Galatians 4:4-5; Acts 17:22-34; Matthew 24:30; 1 Timothy 6:13-16)?*

*One half of many of these 14 pairs of appointed times are only for this life. As you consider the following passages, what hope can you have about the next life? See Revelation 2:17; 3:4-5, 18 and 4:4; 7:15; 18:14; 20:7-10; 13-14; 21:2; 21:4; 22:2*

**Application**

*How does the main idea challenge or confirm your beliefs?*

*Is there some attitude you need to change? Given the message, what should your heart not desire?*

*How does the Preacher challenge you to change the way you live? Lead you to be loyal to King Jesus?*