



**Timing Is Everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15)
Sunday, March 19, 2023 AVBC**

1. God has given us the gift of time so that we can experience the full _____ of life.

Merismus = the statement of polar opposites as a way of embracing everything that lies between them

He was despised and rejected- a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. (Isaiah 53:3)

For John the Baptist didn't drink wine and he often fasted, and you say 'He's demon possessed.' And I, the Son of Man, feast and drink, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of the worst sort of sinners!...' (Matthew 11:18,19a)

2. God has built a rhythm into time so that we can experience some _____ in life.

- **T** _____ (Ecclesiastes 10:18) (Jeremiah 2:25)

You're my place of quiet retreat; I wait for your Word to renew me. (Psalm 119:114) (Message)

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28) (NLT)

- **S** _____
- **T** _____ (Ecc. 3:11)

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:2)

3. We live in _____ but God has created us with eternity running through our veins.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (John 1:12)

Salvation is by _____ alone through faith alone in _____ alone!

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. As God's partners, we beg you not to reject this marvellous message of God's great kindness. For God says, 'At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.' Indeed, God is ready to help your right now. Today is the day of salvation. (II Corinthians 5:21; 6:1-2)

DIGGING DEEPER

(For use in personal/family devotions or with your care group)

- Q1: Have you ever been too early for something...or arrived too late? If so, explain.
Q2: When you think of "perfect timing" what comes to mind?
Q3: Ecclesiastes 3:2-8 contains 14 merismus pairs. Which pair is most important to you right now? Why?
Q4: Read Psalm 127:1-2. What is the Lord saying to you about priorities & pace?
Q5: Think about the tempo of your life. Does God want you speed up? Slow down? Explain.
Q6: As you reflect on the contrasting words in Ecclesiastes 3:2-8 do you sense that the Lord may want to expand the spectrum of your life? If so, how?
Q7: What are some ways that you sense eternity "running through your veins"?
Q8: Read Ecclesiastes 3:14-15. What do these verses teach you about time and God?
Q9: What is one thing that you think the Lord wants you to do "now"...maybe even today?