



Life Group Questions
midlandevangelicalfreechurch
midlandfree.org



Date: September 26, 2021

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Everything God does stems from who God is. His character determines His actions. He is "infinitely perfect";¹ therefore, whatever He does comes out just right (excellent, good, loving, trustworthy, and just). Further, His character traits result in our blessing. For example, God's mercy results in our forgiveness. Jesus' perfection results in our peace. God's faithfulness results in our hope.

To teach us how to live wisely under the sun and enjoy the time we have, Ecclesiastes highlights several of God's characteristics and their implications. In 3:14, the author emphasizes God's eternity: "Whatever God does endures forever." God's eternity teaches us to live with purpose despite the apparently meaningless ebbs and flows of life. Even though we do not understand all the ins and outs of God's plan ("yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from beginning to end" Eccl. 3:11c), still we live with a view towards the eternal ("he has put eternity into man's heart." Eccl. 3:11 b). Eventually, we believe that God will make all things beautiful in his time (Eccl. 3:11 a). The seasons come and go, but God never changes. What does that mean for us? Let's explore that in the next couple of pages.

¹ <https://www.efca.org/sof>



People:

- If God is eternal, and He made us in His image (Genesis 1:17), how does that impact our understanding of ourselves?
 - How does it impact our understanding of others?ⁱ
- If God is eternal, how should I view my family?
 - How will that impact our relationship?

Pleasure:

- If God is eternal, how does that impact our understanding of temporary pleasures?
 - Should we completely abstain from them?
 - Where do they find their origin?
 - How do we rightly consume them?

Work:

If God is eternal, how should I view work?

- What will make work matter?ⁱⁱ
- What will make work worthless?

Stuff:

If God is eternal, how should I view my possessions?

- What will make them matter?
- What will make them worthless?



Life:

- If God is eternal and He made us in His image (Genesis 1:17), how should I view the gift of temporary life under the sun?
- If God is eternal and He made us in His image (Genesis 1:17), how should I view the gift of eternal life under the Son?
- Do any similarities exist between how I should receive temporary life and eternal life?

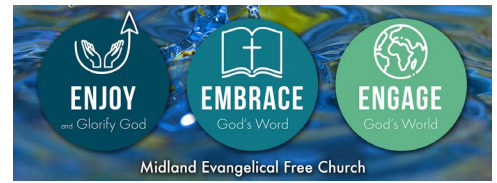
Hope:

- What does God's eternity say about his promises?
- How does that impact my hope?
- Some theologians have said that God's immutability is the foundation for His faithfulness.
 - What does that mean?ⁱⁱⁱ
 - How does that play out in our lives?
 - Can we trust him?
 - What about his promises?
 - How do we know that he won't change his mind or back out on the deal when we mess up?
 - What about justice—will it ever come?

Please take some time to pray together as a group, praising and worshiping God for his eternity. Please include that aspect of God at the start of your prayer. After that consider praying about one of the topics in bold above.



Life Group Questions
midlandevangelicalfreechurch
midlandfree.org



ⁱ ...You have never talked to a mere mortal. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit.

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, ed. Walter Hooper, Fifth ed. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996).34.39.

ⁱⁱ Ecclesiastes 2:24–25 (ESV) ²⁴ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

Ecclesiastes 3:12–13 (ESV) ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

ⁱⁱⁱ

Immutability

Since God will never change, God will never do differently than who he is. If he makes a promise, he will keep it, because he himself will never change, either his mind or His will.

Eternality

Furthermore, if God makes a promise, he *has already kept it*, because he exists at the end of the promise [the Beginning and the End – Alpha and Omega). Even though we remain locked into a specific sequence of events and timeline, God sits both in and outside of time. He exists with us in the moment, but also beyond us in the future. He has already come to the completion point, "to infinity and beyond."