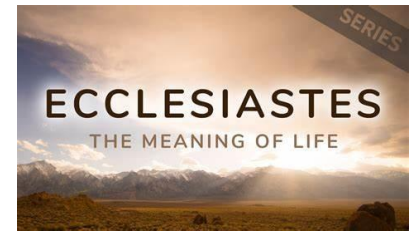


Questions Through Ecclesiastes

Lesson 9: What does it mean that there is a time to keep and a time to throw away?

Ecclesiastes 3:6b



- * This statement is part of an extended passage (vv. 1–8) in which Solomon parallels fourteen _____ and _____ times and seasons of life. Together they represent the sum of human existence.
- * Ultimately, Solomon concludes that _____ controls each moment and works out His good purposes through every experience.
- * “A time to keep and a time to throw away” almost certainly applies to how we deal with our personal _____. Scripture states that nothing in this life is ours to keep forever (1 Timothy 6:7, Eccl. 5:15; Job 1:21).
- * The Bible reveals that everything we have comes from _____ (John 3:27; Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 11:12). Our heavenly Father is generous and _____ His children when they are charitable, too (Prov. 22:9).
- * Even though _____ is the rule, the apostle Paul spoke of an appropriate “time to keep” and not give to one in need. Believers are not obligated to provide for those who are _____, _____, and _____ to work.
- * There are _____ and occasions when getting rid of our possessions is better than keeping them. For this reason, Jesus warned, “*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions*” (Luke 12:15, Matt. 6:19-21).
- * According to Paul, our heavenly _____ are the only ones worth keeping in the bank (read-1 Tim. 6:17–19).
- * Just as sailors throw their cargo overboard to save a ship (Jonah 1:5; Acts 27:18, 19, 38), so must we abandon any _____ baggage that might keep us from eternal salvation (Matt. 5:29–30; Matt. 18:8–9; Mark 9:43–47).
- * The devoted follower of Christ will give up _____ and _____ that might distract him from his real treasure. Like Paul, he will “*consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ*” (Phil. 3:8).
- * Recognizing there is “a time to keep and a time to throw away” means living with an _____ perspective. We may acquire things while on earth, but we must always be prepared to let them go.