

*No theme... just random thoughts for 10 weeks!*

## *Week 5 – Everything is suitable*

*9. What gain have the workers from their toil? 10. I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. 11. He has made everything suitable for its time.*

Ecclesiastes 3:9-11

This morning in my effort to find a *random thought*, I chose to arbitrarily search in the Bible for a creativity kickstart. “The New Interpreters Study Bible” (New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha) is on my desk as usual, and I pushed a paper clip between the pages without looking. Just so you know, there are sixty-six possible books to open (39 Old and 27 New). Add the Apocrypha’s fourteen books and my random clip insertion presented a 1-in-80 chance to land in a book with something intriguing. By happenstance, I inserted the clip in Ecclesiastes chapters 2, 3, and two lines in 4.

The haphazard opening was to one of the few Old Testament works that attracts and holds my attention. The arbitrary turn was to pages 932 and 933 in the study bible. It was fortuitous because I actually like Ecclesiastes for several reasons. Primarily I’m drawn by the fact that the author is simply referred to as the “preacher” or in some references, “teacher.” Having been both of those in my career, the opening brought joy to my fingertips. They are eagerly punching the keys on my MacBook Air just to record these words.

My eye was drawn to the center of page 933 where I read the subtitle words, “*The God-Given Task*.” Feel free to go Ecclesiastes 3 and you might recognize the first eight verses. If you happen to have been a teen in 1965 like I was, or you may have listened to the folk-rock on Sirius XM from that same era, you are likely to have heard the folk band, The Byrds (and several other artists), sing *Turn, Turn, Turn*. If you don’t remember it, just ask the search app on your phone or computer to play or read the lyrics. The songwriter simply inserted a few new words, some chords, and some rhythm to these poignant and meaningful words.

Words and music from *Turn, Turn, Turn* are entrenched in my brain and sort of bubble up in my head before being spewed out of my mouth each time I hear the phrase “a time to...”. Just listen and you will know what I mean and perhaps feel what emotions I experience. Sandy can definitely confirm I sing the words, albeit not always on key, every time I hear the phrase. Believe with me that these words by the “preacher/teacher” are intended to balance our lives and invigorate our daily routine.

Mortal minds tend to overemphasize negative, dread based trials at the expense of the Light and Love which are so prevalent in our faith. These two “L” words are each intended to uplift and brighten our gloomiest days. It is incumbent on all God’s human creatures to recognize the challenge and attempt to find balance in our internal self, and in interactions with other human beings. Be assured that balance occurs when we surrender our mortal mind to the infinite Spirit presence within each of us.

There is no memory in my mind of a time when I didn’t refer to the “Divine Presence within me” and suggested everyone recognize and accept *God is with us* by being *within us*. Balance comes when we stop putting God “out there” and recognize we are Divine because the Divine resides within all humankind, and animal, and plant, and all creation. Perhaps now is the time to simply face it, and say it. God resides in all living elements of the earth, and planets, and moon, and sun, and the Universe.

Here’s my challenge to all readers. Allow your conscious purpose to be one that creates a new dimension of mindfulness about our Universe. Jesus clearly identified this precept as the “kingdom of heaven.” Make it a point to commit time and effort while applying gratitude and appreciation to God, the Son, and the Spirit. You can stop reading these words with the knowledge and focus that prayer, rest, and relaxation are also dimensions that are vital to spiritual well-being and stability. Feeling good within our own space mentally and physically instills suitable balance throughout our collective lives.

God is within each of us and has “made everything suitable for its time” on our behalf. Thanks be to God.

Peace always,  
Ted