

Life in light of eternity - wisdom from Ecclesiastes for today

David Gibson: Seminar 2

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This seminar is the second in a series of four. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, youth group or friends. The questions/reflections provided may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life.

WATCH THE VIDEO:

[Seminar 2:](#)
tinyurl.com/yvekrwvt

SEMINAR OUTLINE

An eternal God teaches creatures some of his greatest lessons through the vehicle of time. Wise people respect time's rhythms and give up trying to control time's seasons.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do humans demonstrate their desire to be like God and share his incommunicable attributes?
 2. In Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 how does the writer show that time is short, elusive and repetitive in a bid to tackle our idolatrous desire for eternity?
 3. What does Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 teach us about seasons and relationships?
 4. What does it mean that God has, 'set eternity in the human heart' (Ecclesiastes 3:11)?
 5. How can we understand Ecclesiastes 3:11: 'He has made everything beautiful in its time'? The phrase is in the past tense but so much of life is still not beautiful.
 6. 'God will call the past to account' – what hope and challenge is there in this promise from Ecclesiastes 3:15?
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REFLECTION/PRAYER

- Write down examples of how you long for both change and permanence. How have you seen the devil exploit these desires for his advantage?
- Discuss with your spouse, family or a close friend the rhythms which operate in your life. Which ones would be helpful to adopt? Think particularly about your use of technology and what you do on a Sunday.
- Praise God, he is not like us! He is eternal, standing outside time and experiencing every moment at once. Thank God for the comfort and confidence we have knowing that one day we will see how he has knitted our lives and all of history together beautifully, for his glory.
- To explore this theme further, read one of the books recommended in the seminar – '12 Things God Can't Do' by Nick Tucker, 'None Like Him' by Jen Wilkin, 'The Tech-Wise Family' by Andy Crouch or 'Destiny' by David Gibson.