

## HOW TO DEAL WITH LIFE'S CHANGES ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

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### INTRODUCTION

With the exception of God Himself and His Word, all things as we know them are in a constant state of change. However, the Bible reveals that God never changes!

*Malachi 3:6—“I am the Lord, I change not”*

*Hebrews 13:8—“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”*

1. His person never changes—Always holy, righteous, just, loving.
2. His power never changes—He is all powerful. There is no cosmic kryptonite.
3. His promises never change—He is the only real promise-keeper we can depend on.
4. His plan never changes—Jesus is the way, the truth, the life.
5. His purpose never changes—To bring those in Christ into the likeness Christ.

God is the Alpha and Omega!

### **I. MOST OF THE THINGS THAT COME INTO OUR LIVES ARE SEASONAL. (Vs 1)**

That is, everything in our lives has a beginning and most of them have an end.

Because the things of this life are seasonal, our lives are constantly changing.

Some changes are welcome in that they break the monotony of life. (e.g. the seasons)

Some changes are welcome in that they make the quality of life, as we perceive it, better. (age 13—“Teenager”, age 16—drive, age 18—vote, age 21—fully legal)

Some changes are unwelcome because they bring down the quality of our lives.

(Is there really such a thing as aging gracefully— 30, 40, 50, 60, 70. . .)

Some changes are unwelcome because they are hard to accept. (e.g. Kids growing up and moving out (Empty nest syndrome); or maybe the death of a loved one)

About the time we think we've settled into a routine—boom! Something unexpected comes along and our lives are changed again! That's life!

As much as I would like to be 5 years old again at 418 New Jesup Hwy, in Brunswick Georgia, without a care in the world, riding my toy tractor, eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and drinking ice tea watching the goose pimples pop up on my arm—it won't happen!

We must learn to deal with the changes that life brings or we won't be able to cope with life! It may be that something had a beginning in our lives all of a sudden ends abruptly!

(e.g. A job or a career, a relationship, a loved one)

It may be that something new comes into our lives and we experience a new beginning.

(A single person finds Mr. Right or Mrs. Right, A young couple has a new baby, or some individual develops a new illness)

### **A. Think Of The Beginnings And Ends Of Just Our Physical Life.**

1. Our physical life itself had a beginning on this earth and one day it will have an end. (Vs 2)  
*Hebrews 9:27 says it is “appointed unto man once to die.”*
2. My infancy had a beginning, it also had an end.
3. My childhood had a beginning, it also had an end.

**HOW TO DEAL WITH LIFE'S CHANGES  
ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11**

4. My adolescence had a beginning, it also had an end.
5. My adulthood had a beginning, one day it will have an end.
6. One day I may live long enough to enter my second childhood, and it will also end.

**B. Think Of Other Areas Of Our Lives.**

Life is full of beginnings and ends.

1. A Time To Work, A Time To Retire.
2. A Time To Play, A Time To Get Serious About Life.

*MOST OF THE THINGS THAT COME INTO OUR LIVES ARE SEASONAL.*

**II. THE SEASONAL THINGS THAT GOD ALLOWS TO COME INTO OUR LIVES ARE PURPOSEFUL TO THE CHILD OF GOD. (Vs 1)**

*“Season”– means “appointed occasion”*

*“Purpose”– means “pleasure; desire; a valuable thing; a matter”*

There are cycles of life that begin in our lives and ultimately end in our lives, each with a purpose in our lives during the season that they are in our lives!

**In short, God has a purpose for all of the beginnings and all of the ends of our lives!**

*Romans 8:28–“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”*

Although there are many problems that we encounter that may seem to contradict God’s plan, these should not be barriers to believing in Him, but rather opportunities to discover that without God, life’s problems have no solutions!

**HOW TO DEAL WITH LIFE'S CHANGES  
ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11**

**III. SOME THINGS THAT COME INTO OUR LIVES ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL.**

We did not choose when to be born!

We did not choose where to be born!

(I’m a southerner by birth, Georgian by the grace of God)

We did not choose our father or our mother nor our sisters or brothers.

**A. Some Look At These Things They Cannot Control And Use Them As Excuses For Their Lives.**

This comes from the humanistic thinking that says we are only a product of our circumstances. i.e. It says if we could only improve man’s circumstances, then we can improve the man.

**We need to get over the things we can’t control and go on with our lives because God has His purpose for everything that He allows to come our way!**

**B. Some Look At These Things They Cannot Control As Challenges For Their Lives.**

That is, things that become stumblingblocks to some **can be** stepping stones to others depending on their reaction to those things!

The man who invented WD-40 failed 39 times!

Thomas Edison failed 1000 times before inventing the light bulb!

**C. Again, Even The Things That We Cannot Control Are Purposeful In Our Lives!**

We can’t control a traffic jam, but there is a purpose for it!

We can’t control a delay at the airport, but there is a purpose for it!

God has a purpose for our lives and a purpose for each thing that come our way during our lives!

HOW TO DEAL WITH LIFE'S CHANGES  
ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

IV. **SOME THINGS THAT COME INTO OUR LIVES ARE IN OUR CONTROL! (i.e. I can control my reaction to things that come my way!)** That is why the Bible says we are to choose some things.

A. **We Are Sinners By Nature, But We Are Also Sinners By Choice!**

The Comedian Flip Wilson made famous the saying "*The Devil Made Me Do It.*"

*Deuteronomy 30:19-- "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."*

The problem is that we often allow our lusts to control our lives!

*James 1:14-15-- "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."*

B. **We Can Choose To Serve The Lord, Or We Can Choose To Serve Another!**

*Joshua 24:15-- "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve;"*

*Proverbs 3:31-- "Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways."*

*Isaiah 65:12-- "Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not."*

C. **We Can Choose To Fear The Lord, Or Not Fear The Lord!**

*Proverbs 1:29-- "For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:"*

HOW TO DEAL WITH LIFE'S CHANGES  
ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11

V. **WHEN SOMETHING ENDS IN OUR LIVES IT IS TIME TO FIND SOME NEW BEGINNINGS!**

We can do this because we know that God ultimately controls our lives!

A. **We May Need To Renew Some Old Commitments!**

Noah at the end of the flood he came off the ark and built an altar unto the Lord.

Joshua at the end of his life-- "*As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.*"

B. **We May Need To Make Some New Commitments!**

A new chapter in our lives deserves a new commitment!  
Graduated from High School—Go to College  
Graduate from College—Find A Place To Be Used Of God.

C. **We May Need To Accept Some New Challenges!**

Noah had a new challenge when he came off of the ark!  
Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth!

Moses was on Mt. Sinai there with God getting the tables of the testimony! After 40 days with God, he came down to find the people of God caught up in idolatry!

D. **We Must Obey God With A New Cheerfulness Or Spirit!**

Don't be tempted to despair or be dragged down in depression!  
At the end of things we need to look for a new beginning!

VI. **WHEN THE ENDS COME WE MUST FOCUS MOST OF OUR ATTENTION ON THE THINGS THAT LAST FOREVER!**

A. **There Is No End To Our Salvation!**

*"Everlasting life." "Eternal life"*

B. **There Is No End To The Word Of God!**

*Matthew 24:35-- "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*

**HOW TO DEAL WITH LIFE'S CHANGES**  
**ECCLESIASTES 3:1-11**

- C. There Is No End To True Love!**  
*1 Corinthians 13:8–“Charity never faileth”*
- D. There Is No End To Our Testimony And Influence!**  
Abraham, Moses, David, Paul.
- E. There Is No End To Our Treasures Stored Up In Heaven!**  
*Matthew 6:20–“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”*
- F. There Is No End To Those We Help Turn To Christ!**  
*1 Thessalonians 2:19–“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.”*

**CONCLUSION**

What “ends” in your life have left loose ends in your life?

Isn't it time to find a new beginning?

*Phil 3:13-- “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Are you making the most of the new beginnings in your life? Are you making the right commitments?

Are you focusing most of your attention on those things that have no end—the eternal things of God?