
*Ecclesiastes 3:14 **I know that whatever God does endures forever**; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has made it so, in order that men should fear before him. ¹⁵ That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.*

Discouragement: On what am I depending for real life?

Exodus 20:3 You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them;

The choice before us: Trust & act in spite of your feelings

*2 Chronicles 20:15 **Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.***

*¹⁶ Tomorrow march down against them. ¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you... **Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.** Go out to face them tomorrow, and *the LORD will be with you.*’*

Feelings do not need to rule us

God is serving His purposes through this trial

Act on what is right. Do your responsibility. Act with courage.

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The Surprising Virtue of Discouragement Satisfied-part 3

April 14, 2024

Proverbs 27:20 Hell and destruction are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.

Discouragement: is there anything really worth living for?

Ecclesiastes 1:2 "Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity."

*Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is **plain to them**, because **God has made it plain to them**. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been **clearly seen**, being understood from what has been made, so that **men are without excuse**. ²¹ For **although they knew God**, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but **their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened**. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, **they became fools** ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁵ They **exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.***

Discouragement: stinkin' thinkin'?

Ecclesiastes 1:3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

⁴ A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

⁵ The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.

⁶ *The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.* ⁷ *All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.*

⁸ *All things are full of **weariness**; a man cannot utter it; the eye is **not satisfied** with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.*

⁹ *What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the sun.*

¹⁰ *Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already, in the ages before us.*

¹¹ *There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to happen among those who come after.*

Are you drawing conclusions about life from a horizontal, finite, and temporal or vertical, infinite, and eternal point of view?

Discouragement: "I can't make any sense out of this."

Speculation vs. Revelation

*Eccl. 1:13 And **I applied my mind** to seek and to search out by **wisdom** all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with.* ¹⁴ ***I have seen everything** that is done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.* ¹⁵ *What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be numbered.* ¹⁶ *I said to myself, "**I have acquired great wisdom**, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me; and **my mind** has had great experience of **wisdom** and **knowledge**."* ¹⁷ *And I applied my mind to know **wisdom** and to know **madness and folly**. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.* ¹⁸ *For in **much wisdom** is **much vexation**, and he who increases knowledge increases **sorrow**.*

The (daily) redemption of discouragement

Encouragement: God is redemptively at work in daily life

Romans 8:28 We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ *For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...*

Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² *a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

³ *a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

⁴ *a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

⁵ *a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

⁶ *a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;* ⁷ *a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;* ⁸ *a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.* ⁹ *What gain has the worker from his toil?* ¹⁰ ***I have seen the business that God has given** to the sons of men to be busy with.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has **made everything beautiful in its time**; also **he has put eternity into man's mind**, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.*

Ecclesiastes 3:12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³ *also that it is God's gift to man that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil.*
