

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

October 2024

Greetings, well it finally feels like Fall may be coming, at least the temperatures are not triple digits (here in Texas), but still too warm for those prisons without A/C.

Lately, I have been pondering God's timing and plan in the chaos we find ourselves in. Yes, I know, we as Christians know God's plan. But it is very easy to allow the things of this world to distract us from God and His plan. So, let's look at a verse that seems to have a lot to say and applicable points to keep us from getting deceived by the current chaos of this world

Ecclesiastes 3:11 is a profound verse from the Bible that reflects on God's timing and human understanding of eternity. Here's a look at it from different Bible translations:

New King James Version (NKJV), *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."* This verse emphasizes God's perfect timing in creating beauty and purpose in all things. The phrase *"eternity in their hearts"* suggests that humans have an innate awareness or sense of the eternal—an understanding that there is more to life than the temporal. Yet, despite this awareness, we cannot fully comprehend God's complete plan or work.

New American Standard Bible (NASB), *"He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end."* The NASB translates the word "beautiful" as "appropriate," which points to the suitability of God's timing in everything. It conveys a similar sense that while people have a longing or awareness of the eternal, they are limited in understanding God's comprehensive purposes and actions across time.

English Standard Version (ESV), *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end."* The ESV parallels the NKJV closely. It highlights the human longing for something beyond the finite world, while also stressing the mystery of God's work. The tension between the knowledge of eternity and the inability to fully grasp God's plans emphasizes our human limitations in understanding divine wisdom.

Amplified Bible (AMP), *"He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]—yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end."* The Amplified Bible expands on the text by clarifying that "eternity" refers to a "sense of divine purpose" or a deep, inner longing for something transcendent and eternal. It elaborates that this longing cannot be fully satisfied by anything earthly, but only by God. The verse acknowledges our human limitation in grasping the full scope of God's eternal plan.

So, what are the key insights within each of these versions? Across these translations, several core themes emerge:

- **God's Perfect Timing:** The verse declares that God makes everything beautiful or appropriate in its due time, affirming His sovereignty and wisdom over creation and life events.
- **Eternity in the Human Heart:** Each translation expresses the idea that we as humans possess a sense of eternity—a longing or awareness of something beyond our temporal existence. This could reflect a spiritual awareness, an intrinsic search for meaning, or a sense of divine purpose.
- **Human Limitation:** Although we are aware of eternity, we are limited in understanding the full scope of God's plan. This limitation points to the mystery of God's work in creation and history, which is beyond our human comprehension.

Ecclesiastes 3:11, therefore, presents a dual reality: the beauty of God's timing and order, and the mystery of His eternal plan that we as humans can perceive but never fully understand. It encourages humility and trust in God's wisdom, as well as an acknowledgment of the innate spiritual longing that only God can satisfy. Ecclesiastes 3:11 also offers profound insights that are highly relevant to modern life. Here are some ways this verse applies today:

- **Trusting in God's Timing:** The phrase *"He has made everything beautiful in its time"* reminds us that life unfolds according to God's schedule, not ours. In our fast-paced world, where instant gratification is often expected, this verse encourages patience and faith. Whether we're waiting for a job opportunity, parole decision, healing, rescue from a difficult situation, or

seeking direction in life, the verse reassures us that God's timing is perfect—even when we don't understand it at the moment. In times of uncertainty, we can find peace in knowing that God is working everything for good, even if we can't see it yet. Trusting in His timing helps us avoid frustration and restlessness.

- **The Search for Meaning and Purpose:** The verse says that God *“has put eternity in their hearts.”* This speaks to the deep longing we have for purpose, fulfillment, and meaning beyond the material world. In today's secular and often materialistic society, many still feel an inner void, despite outward success or comfort. This verse reminds us that true fulfillment can only be found in something eternal—**God**. People today seek meaning in careers, relationships, wealth, or personal achievements, but often still feel empty. This scripture calls us to recognize that our deepest needs can only be met in a relationship with God, whose eternal nature aligns with the eternity placed in our hearts. To fill that hole.....
- **Accepting Human Limitations:** The second part of the verse, *“no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end,”* reflects our human limitations in understanding the full scope of God's plan. In today's world of rapid advancements in technology, science, and information, we often believe we can control or understand everything. However, there are still mysteries in life—suffering, death, love, and divine purpose—that we cannot fully grasp. This calls for humility in how we approach life. Instead of trying to figure out or control everything, we are invited to live by faith, knowing that God's wisdom is higher than ours. Even in confusion or tragedy, this verse encourages us to trust that God sees the bigger picture.
- **Finding Peace in a Chaotic World:** We live in a time of constant change, unpredictability, and sometimes chaos—politically, socially, and environmentally. The assurance that God is working everything according to His plan, and that there is an eternal perspective, offers hope. While we may face challenging circumstances, we can rest in the knowledge that God's purposes will ultimately prevail. In the midst of life's challenges, we can lean on this verse to find comfort and peace. It reminds us that life is more than what we see; there is a divine purpose at work that transcends our current struggles.
- **Spiritual Awakening and Longing for God:** The phrase *“eternity in their hearts”* also applies to the spiritual hunger many experience today. Despite living in a world with endless distractions and entertainment, many still feel a deep, unshakable sense that there is more to life. This spiritual yearning can only be satisfied through a relationship with God. This verse encourages people to seek God to fill the void that nothing else in this world can. As people explore spiritual practices or seek a deeper connection with something eternal, this scripture points to God as the ultimate source of that fulfillment.

What can we learn from this and how can we incorporate it into our lives? We Learn:

- **Patience in Timing:** In the face of delayed answers or desires, we can trust that God is orchestrating events for our good, even when we don't immediately see it.
- **Pursuit of Meaning:** Rather than seeking fulfillment in temporary things, we are invited to seek God, the only One who satisfies the eternal longing in our hearts.
- **Humble Trust:** In a world where we often feel the need to control or understand everything, this verse reminds us that God's ways are higher, and trusting Him brings peace.
- **Hope in Chaos:** Even when life feels out of control, we are assured that there is a divine plan at work beyond what we can see.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 also speaks to the timeless realities of God's sovereignty, our human limitation, and the quest for eternal meaning. In today's world, we often grapple with impatience, discontent, and existential questions, this verse offers hope, peace, and perspective. It encourages us to live with faith, trusting that God is weaving together a greater plan, even when we can't comprehend the full picture. So how do we find peace, especially in today's fast-paced and often chaotic world? It can seem elusive. However, peace is attainable, especially when we seek it from a holistic perspective—spiritual, emotional, and mental. Here's how we can find true and lasting peace:

- **Peace with God:** Spiritual peace begins with being in right relationship with God. This peace is rooted in faith and the understanding that through Jesus, we are reconciled to God.
- **Through Jesus Christ:** Romans 5:1 says, *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”* Peace with God comes when we trust in Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, knowing we are forgiven and loved by God.
- **Resting in God's Sovereignty:** Trusting that God is in control allows us to let go of fear and anxiety. Philippians 4:6-7 says, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* This verse encourages us to take our concerns to God in prayer, trusting Him with the outcome, and experiencing His supernatural peace.
- **Internal Peace (Peace within Ourselves):** Personal peace comes when we align our hearts and minds with truth, letting go of worry, guilt, or unresolved emotions.
- **Cultivating Gratitude:** A grateful heart brings peace. By focusing on what we have rather than what we lack, we can reduce anxiety. Practicing gratitude daily shifts our focus from problems to blessings. (We talked last month about a Thankful heart).
- **Letting Go of Control:** Much anxiety comes from trying to control outcomes. Peace comes when we realize we can't control everything, and we trust God or a higher power with the future. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.”*

- **Forgiveness:** Unresolved guilt or holding onto grudges disrupts internal peace. By seeking forgiveness where needed (both from God and others) and forgiving those who've hurt us, we release emotional burdens that block peace. Colossians 3:13 encourages us to *"forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*
- **Peace with Others (Relational Peace):** Finding peace in relationships is vital for overall peace. Healthy relationships bring joy, while conflict often brings stress.
- **Pursue Reconciliation:** Jesus emphasized peacemaking. In Matthew 5:9, He said, *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."* This calls us to actively seek peace in relationships—whether through reconciliation, understanding, or even sometimes healthy boundaries.
- **Choose Humility and Understanding:** Relational peace often requires humility, listening, and the willingness to compromise. Romans 12:18 advises, *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."* While we can't control others' actions, we can control our responses, choosing peace over conflict whenever possible.
- **Mental and Emotional Peace:** Finding peace mentally and emotionally often requires adopting practices and habits that reduce stress and cultivate well-being.
- **Renewing the Mind:** Our thoughts greatly influence our sense of peace. Philippians 4:8 encourages us to focus on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. By filtering out negative, anxious thoughts and focusing on positive truths, we promote peace in our minds.
- **Mindfulness and Meditation:** Setting aside time to quiet the mind and reflect can help reduce stress. For us Christians, this could involve meditation on Scripture, prayer, or simply sitting in God's presence. Isaiah 26:3 says, *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."*
- **Healthy Lifestyle Choices:** Exercise, sleep, proper nutrition, and time spent in nature all contribute to mental peace. Taking care of your body can reduce stress and help you maintain a peaceful state of mind. This may be harder in prison.
- **Living with Purpose:** Peace also comes when we live with a sense of purpose and meaning. When we align our lives with God, we experience fulfillment and a sense of direction.
- **Serving Others:** A self-centered life often leads to dissatisfaction and restlessness. Serving others and living beyond ourselves brings a deep sense of peace and joy. Acts 20:35 says, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts of kindness and service can bring inner peace.
- **Embracing God's Plan for Our Lives:** Peace comes from accepting and pursuing God's unique purpose for our lives. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Aligning with that purpose helps us feel fulfilled and at peace with where we are and where we're headed.

#### Practical Steps for Finding Peace Today:

- **Regular Prayer and Meditation:** Spending daily time in prayer and reflection brings calm to your spirit and allows you to align with God's peace.
- **Let Go of What You Can't Control:** Release anxieties and stresses that are outside of your control by trusting God's sovereignty. This is a big one!
- **Seek Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** Clear unresolved issues with others and practice forgiveness to free yourself from the burden of conflict.
- **Live with Gratitude:** Focus on the positive things in your life, keeping a gratitude journal, or practicing thankfulness in prayer.
- **Simplify Your Life:** A cluttered or over-scheduled life can rob us of peace. Simplifying commitments and focusing on what really matters can help you find more inner calm.
- **Stay Connected to God's Word:** Regularly reading Scripture will remind you of God's promises, keeping your heart and mind centered on His peace.

True peace, is found through a relationship with God, trusting in His sovereignty, and aligning with His purpose. This peace transcends circumstances and emotions and is available regardless of external situations. By practicing gratitude, forgiveness, and trust in God, along with nurturing relationships and maintaining a healthy mental state, we can cultivate a life filled with peace. As Jesus said in John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* This peace is available to anyone who seeks it.

May you always be safe and in peace, Blessings to each of you,

***Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)***

***If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com)***

***Christ's Heart In Every Felon***



330 Rayford Rd. # 231  
Spring, Texas, 77386

**Nonprofit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Spring, TX  
Permit 676**