

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

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SPEAKER

Brian Frost

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Meaning(Less)

PART

3

TITLE

Beautiful In Its Time

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15



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What? Yeah. Can I get a tow?

Sure. What's your location?

Where did my money go? Nevermind.

So you don't need help?

Well it's great to see you Providence family, once again, through a screen. But I hope that you are having a good morning and a good week. If you're new with us, we are so grateful that you have joined us. If you know Christ as your savior and Lord, I pray that this time has been and will be really encouraging to you.

And if you're new and you don't know Christ as your savior and Lord, perhaps a friend of yours asked you to watch and you're just curious about who Jesus is and what he has done, I pray that this time will be helpful to you, that it will be encouraging to you. But also I pray that it inspires you to actually put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ here today. So let me pray for us as we get started.

Father in heaven, we look to you in faith. We thank you for your kindness to us and we acknowledge that God as we look into the world today, we see brokenness in every area of life. We confess to you, father, that we have contributed to the chaos that the sin and the selfishness, the misunderstanding, the apathy, the indifference that we see within our own heart, we confess to you that we have contributed to the chaos of our culture.

We confess to you, father, that we have rebelled against you, that you have given us very clear instruction on life. And we confess to you, father, that we as a people, that I as a man routinely declare independence from you and seek to find meaning and joy and hope apart from you. And God I pray that as we open up your word, I pray for those who are confused about who you are. I pray for those who are confused about what you allow and permit in this world and maybe even are at the place of really being uncertain if you exist at all.

And so I pray that you would use Ecclesiastes chapter three to encourage and inspire our hearts. We ask you for your help. We pray all of this in Jesus name. Amen. So if you have a Bible, I would love for you to look with me to Ecclesiastes chapter three. If you're new at the Bible, that's sort of in the middle. It's in the old testament.

And it's a book that if you've never read it, and if you begin to read it, you're going to find parts of Ecclesiastes to be not only perplexing to the mind, but also even disturbing to the soul. There's a lot in Ecclesiastes that is difficult to absorb. When you get to Ecclesiastes chapter three, he adds a layer of complexity to what we call life. I want to tell you though, a story, a true story about a friend.

So we sat down and my friend said to me these words. He says, "Brian, let me ask you this. Why is it that my love for my children seems to outpace God's love and care and concern for people on the earth, even people who have trusted in his son?" This was the last question that my friend asked of me while he was renouncing his faith and even leaving our church family. He went on to say that I see that the Bible says that God is sovereign and he's good and he's loving.

He says, "But I see godly missionaries who read within the scriptures that everyone needs to hear about Jesus Christ. And so they pick up everything. They sacrifice all of their comforts. They go to the other side of the earth and then they get there and some of them get sick, some of them die. Some of them are hated for it. It doesn't make any sense to me." He says that I see that there are godly parents who are seeking to raise their children to love and to fear and to know who God is.

And then these same parents, some of them, they have to watch their children struggle. They have to watch their struggle, deal with anxiety. And some of the parents have to stand at their own child's graveside. He goes, "Then I look at our own church and I look at godly people around the world who give and who serve and who love and who take care of people. And yet these people suffer loss."

And he says, "I've just got to the place where I cannot trust in a God any longer whose care is so cold." I imagine that if you are in any way connected to a church, maybe even Providence, that you have seen people walk away from the Lord. This picture represents what we are so familiar with in life, is that people walking away from Jesus, walking away from the Bible, walking away maybe even from their faith.

Sometimes people, they'll say, "I believe in Jesus and I believe that he is God. And yet for a season in life, I want to walk away from him." The reality is is you may actually be in a place in life that not only do you know somebody who's walked away, maybe you have walked away, or maybe you imagine today yourself drawing closer to that moment when you walk away.

Maybe you're confused about what's happening in the world and confused about the God of the Bible and that he's sovereign and good and holy and just and yet you look at the complexity of the world and the brokenness of the world that's cursed with thorns and thistles and it just doesn't add up to you. And maybe you see this is one day being you maybe by the end of today. We probably all know somebody. And if you don't know somebody, we're going to read the words of a somebody who walked away.

Ecclesiastes was written by a man named Solomon. He was the King of Israel. God came to him and he says, "I'm going to bless you. Ask me anything you wish." And Solomon asked God for wisdom. And God was so happy that he asked for wisdom that he says, "Not only am I going to give you just tremendous wisdom, but I'm also going to give you what you didn't ask for. I'm going to give you health and I'm going to give you unrivaled wealth and power and peace during your lifetime."

And in spite of all of God's blessings in Solomon's life, Solomon, his heart turned away from God and he walked away. And he began a quest to find meaning in the world apart from God. Well Ecclesiastes is sort of the travel log of his quest. He's going to show us the different places that he went to find meaning and peace and hope apart from God and he's going to teach us how each one of them turned out to be a dead end.

He's going to teach us lessons that he has learned in life. In Ecclesiastes two, at the very end of it, we looked at last week, he comes to us and he says, "After trying all of these things, this is what I've concluded. And that is that if we're going to find meaning in this life, on this earth, under the sun, then we must find it from the hand of God himself." But then all of a sudden, we come to Ecclesiastes chapter three and Solomon adds a layer of weight to those of us who love God.

And this is what he does in chapter three. He says, "For those so inclined to actually look to God in faith, look to God for meaning in life." He says, "I want you to know that you are going to find yourself confused at God's ways." Indeed, the theme of these 15 verses you can see here, and that is that interpreting God's ways is very difficult under the sun. And so I want to show you here in the first 15 verses just a few lessons, true life principles, and what he has found about God and what God is doing in the world and why it's so difficult for us to be able to see and understand why it's tempting for so many people to think I need to try something else.

The first thing that we find here is that God appoints the seasons of our life. He appoints the seasons of our life. You see, Solomon will not let us resolve the tension that we feel between God's goodness and the world's evil by removing God's control. And so you notice in verse one this is what he says. He says, "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

Now you may look at that and say, "Well, that's not necessarily directed towards God or about God," and yet I want to show you that it is. Look at these two words. If you notice the word season and the word time. He says, "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." And that word season actually means an appointed time or an appointed hour.

These words actually carry the same weight as when Jesus was on the earth. And early in his ministry he says, "My hour has not come. My appointed time. My appointed hour has not come." And then it gets later in his ministry and it says that he sets his eyes towards Jerusalem to go where he's going to die on a cross for our sins. And he says, "And the reason is because my appointed hour has come." And this is the idea that these words carry, for everything there is an appointed season and an appointed time for every matter under the sun.

So we have to ask the question. If these verbs or these words are actually personalized, meaning someone has to do the appointing, well we have to ask the question, who is that? And verse 10 is the other book in. So what you find here is verse one is one book in, verse 10 is another and then he fills it with different times and seasons as examples. So let's look at verse 10.

In verse 10 he says, "I have seen the business that God given to the children of man to be busy with." In other words, that the seasons and the time in verse one, they're actually the same thing as the business that God has given to the children of men. In other words, it is God who is doing the appointing of the seasons and times for our life on this earth. Now many of us, what that means is that we need a lens.

We look at Ecclesiastes and if this is the first time in your Bible, you look at this and this is perplexing to you that God would literally appoint everything. Is that really what the Bible teaches? So you look at this lens right here. If you wear glasses, you know that if you take your glasses off, everything is blurry. It's very similar to this picture outside of the lens. But within the lens, suddenly everything becomes a little clearer.

And this is what we find within the scriptures, is that the rest of the Bible is going to help us interpret Ecclesiastes. That the rest of the Bible adds color to some of the ideas that we find here. So when we talk about God appointing times and seasons, let me show you two other passages. One is from Isaiah chapter 46. This is God speaking. And this is what he says.

He says, "I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, calling a bird of prey from the East, the man of my council from a far country. I have spoken and I will bring it to pass. I have purposed and I will do it." Now this means that God is sovereign. He says, "Look, I am God and there is none like me." What this means is that for you and I, when we come to God, when we come to the scriptures, we are not coming in order to create a God in our image.

We're not accepting things about God, we are learning things about who he is and coming to grips with how we need to move, how we need to believe who he is. You see, when the Bible says that he's sovereign, this is what he means, declaring the end from the beginning. And that is that God is eternal, which means that he sees time as if it's one portrait: past, present, future. And as a result of that, from the very beginning, he can tell us and declare what's going to happen at the end. It's because he can see it.

And it says here that his governance over the earth is so complete. Notice that it says that a bird of prey, a bird is going to hunt. He says that God almighty calling a bird of prey from the East. What that means is birds fly from one end of the sky to the other in order to do their hunting because God commands that they do so. But also notice that he says that he also calls the man of my council from a far country.

That means that you and I move. Some of us, we have moved to a different city or a different state or a different region in America or there's some people who have literally, because they've seen that Jesus Christ is the only way the truth and the life, they have moved to another country. He says that his governance over humanity is such, it's so complete that we only move from house to house or city from city or country to country when God commands it. He's appointing that is a season of our life.

Acts chapter 17 verse 24 says that God, he determined allotted periods, that's times and seasons. And the boundaries, that's the place of their dwelling place, where they're going to live. And so the Bible teaches us that God is sovereign. So when we go back to Ecclesiastes chapter one verse one, it tells us the scope of his sovereignty. Not only are there appointed seasons and times under heaven, but he says for everything, every matter, his sovereignty is that complete.

And then what he does in verses two to verse eight is he tells us some of these seasons. So let's read them together. He says, "There's a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to seek and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away, a time to tear and a time to sow, a time to keep silence and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

Now friends, this is not a buffet line of choices. If it was, we would say, "You know what? Go ahead and give me a lot of laughter, go ahead and times of peace." Now this is not a menu. Now what we find here, this is a sampling of the seasons that God appoints to serve his purposes in our life for his glory. The rhythm is obviously appealing. We move from this, to this and this and this. Somebody should write a song about this. It would probably be popular for a very long time.

But if you think about not only is the rhythm appealing, but the implications can be disturbing. I want to show you a few of these implications. The first is this, is that we must dance to seasons that we don't pick. Most of us, you can remember the first dance that you ever went to. Maybe it was high school or college or something. And all of a sudden, you finally got enough confidence you'd go out and you're dancing with your friends.

And then suddenly without your permission, they change the song. And suddenly it's a slow dance song and you need somebody to dance with and there's nobody there. Everybody else couples up and there you are all by yourself. You didn't pick the song, you didn't pick the change of the songs, but now you must dance different to those songs. And this is life. We can be happy the one day, the birth of a child and crying the next at the death of our best friend. Well, that's disturbing. We are not in control.

A second implication that we find here is this, is that no season is permanent. Well, this is obviously a great thing when we're in all of the bad, right? So you look at that list and they're all in couplets, in twos over here. You can be in a good season or a bad season, a good season or a bad season. When we're in a bad season, this is wonderful news. That's why we say this too shall not last. This is going to change.

We console our friends, one day it's going to be better. We console our children, one day. One day you'll make the team. I know this time you were cut from the team, but one day you will make the team. That's encouraging when we're going through difficult times but it's perplexing when we finally get to a season in life and it seems like everything's working. It seems like this is such a glorious, wonderful time. All my friends are happy and I'm happy with them and my spouse or my children or my boyfriend or girlfriend, everything seems to be going well.

We wish we could just hit the pause button. And Ecclesiastes three says there's no pause button. But whatever you're going through, it's not permanent. And that leads to the third implication to this puzzling rhythm and that is that every season contributes to the next. This means that when you're in one, we can look forward to the next and hope. And those who are in the next may find more joy because they've gone through a difficulty at some point in their past.

For example, you think about today that there's probably a war happening in the world. In fact, we shouldn't say the word probably, there is, there's wars. Just imagine today there's a ceasefire. Maybe there's two tribes in Africa, they're fighting with one another and suddenly there's a ceasefire. And the fact is that because we don't know about it, we don't necessarily relish the peace that they are experiencing because we didn't feel the war.

It's people who have gone through the war who were buoyed by the hope of one day we're going to experience peace. That's how you get through the war. And then once you get into the moment of peace, what happens is that you begin to not take that for granted because you remember how difficult war was. And this is the same with every one of these couplets.

One propels us to the next, which propels us to the next. And God is using all of them in order to grow our character, to fulfill his purposes in our life for his glory. And that leads to one last one that Solomon wants to even refer to directly in verse nine. And that is that frequent change can feel empty. You can spend an entire day this week hanging wallpaper. You wait a decade and that wallpaper is out of style. And so now you're going to have to spend two days ripping it out. Well, that's a burden.

It's a burden if you think about the fact that we can build and then one day we have to demolish. We paint and then later on, we have to spend time sanding off that paint. We can give ourselves wholly to one endeavor and all of a sudden God says, "Hey, that's great. Change of song." And now all of a sudden we have to propel ourselves in another direction. You think about 2019 and 2020, right?

2019 was a different song, February of 2020 was a different song. And then all of a sudden COVID hit, new song. Everyone is adjusting to it. And there's so many things that we were doing and we were investing so much energy of what life was going to be like. We were making plans even for this summer. And all of those plans were scrapped and we had to invest energy and time and resource in order to dance to a different tune.

And Solomon recognizes this, which is what he says in verse nine. He says, “What gain or profit has the worker from his toil?” In other words, some people, the worker goes and he says, “We’re going to build a wall.” And so they gather all the stones and they build up a wall and they look at it and go, “This is wonderful.” And then all of a sudden something happens tonight. You know what? We really need a road through here, we need to remove this wall.

And Solomon says, “What gain of all the labor we’ve gone in one direction to suddenly we have to change directions?” The thing is, there’s so much gain so long as we add God to the equation of our heart. So let me encourage you with this application. And that is, let’s learn to appreciate the appointed seasons of life. I know that for you and for me, we’re in a season. I want you to know that if you’re in a good season right now, you should thank God.

If things are working, if it’s colorful, if you’re in a wonderful relationship, you just need to thank God right now. This is a season you should appreciate in life. But if you’re going through a difficult time, this is a time to trust him, to trust him to bring about his purpose in your life through this difficult season. And the hope of one day, being in a different season that you could look back and say, “You know what? I’m so thankful that now things are so much sweeter because of a difficulty that I went through.”

You see, Hebrews 12:11 says, no discipline seems pleasant at the time but painful. But later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. I want you to know, I know that there is every chance that you and I, that we spend so much time on the earth living in the past or in the future. Many of us live in the past. We’re like the Israelites who after they were set free from slavery, they forgot how hard slavery was.

And so when they came to different challenges in their new world, all of a sudden they start saying, “Let’s go back to Egypt.” And then there’s some of us that we don’t think back was so great, all we can think about is let’s just move forward, let’s get into the future. This is bad, let’s move to utopia. Let’s create the world that we want to live in. But here’s the deal Providence.

If we live all of our todays wishing to go back to yesterday or getting to tomorrow, what happens is this, we miss today. Life is made up of today’s, life is what happens when we’re waiting to live. And so appreciate this time. Appreciate what God’s going to teach you during this difficulty. Appreciate that if this is a sweet season of life, just thank God for it, but appreciate the appointed seasons of life.

Well the second big truth that Solomon wants to teach us is that God makes everything beautiful in its time. He makes everything beautiful in it’s time. Now you know your nature is probably very similar to mine. And that is that if something is good, it should be beautiful right now. We’re not very patient as people. And so verse 11, notice what he says to us. He says, he, meaning God, has made everything beautiful in its time. Not in your timetable, not in my timetable, but he’s made everything beautiful in its time, in his purposes.

In time, God always brings beauty from the ashes, the ashes of every season. Think about having a baby. You have a baby and the baby is so beautiful and lovely. And you just look and you say, "Wow, I just want to look at that baby." But when you finally get to this point, there's been a bunch of seasons that have led up to this point. The first one it probably began with the season of pleasure and that led to conception.

And then without knowing that you're pregnant, you went through a season of nausea, which wasn't so great. That led you though to a doctor or to a test. You're like, "Hey, guess what? We're pregnant." Now all of a sudden there's a celebration. And then all of a sudden you're more tired and you become more uncomfortable. And so then all of a sudden this is a difficult season. But then there's the hope, the anticipation of having a new baby. And so that's a high season.

And then there's the pain of delivery, which is a low season. And then all of a sudden, you look at the little baby in the crib and you go, "Oh, this is wonderful." And this then begins the pendulum of parenting that goes back and forth between really difficult days and really wonderful days. You see, it's the highs and lows that add beauty to it all. It's like a piano. There's the light colored keys, the white keys. They're kind of boring. They're all the major notes.

If you only play that, it sounds so simple. If you only play the darker keys, it's so ominous. But only when you play them together, do you actually enjoy the fullness of the music. Or take for example, a Hallmark movie. Most of us have probably seen a Hallmark movie. If you haven't seen many, if you've seen one, then you've seen, well not all but you've seen all of them. It's a Hallmark movie.

But what's interesting about a Hallmark movie is this, between 16 and 20 minutes from the conclusion of that movie, they always insert attention. There's always a breakup, there's always a fight. There's always the man or the woman's going to go back to the big city and leave the other person in the small town, in the mountains. There's always that need for that drama. And then all of a sudden, the rest of the movie fixes itself and we feel a sense of relief at the end. In the end, it's beautiful in its time.

You see, it's the wait that makes the wedding so sweet. What God is teaching us here is this, is to be very careful in evaluating his care and concern for humanity and judging and scrutinizing his plan in the middle of the plan, that we ought to wait till the end when we actually see how he's brought beauty from all of it. So let me encourage us to trust God's plan until we see its beauty.

When you do see its beauty, you won't need to trust it any more because you'll know it, you'll see it with your own eyes. But right now we're in the middle of the story, not at the end. Right now it looks broken, right now there's tension points. So be patient with God. And the clearest indicator that his plans are going to end in beauty is Jesus himself. We're told in the book of Galatians, I believe it's chapter four verses four and five.

It says, but when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons. Jesus Christ lived the perfect life and yet he went to a cross in order to die for our sins, to pay the penalty of our sin, to reconcile us back to God. Everyone that would trust him would be forgiven of their sin because he paid our debt.

But people in that moment who maybe knew Jesus but didn't understand all of God's plan, they probably stood underneath that cross. And they looked up at Jesus and they said, "God, this makes no sense." There may have been somebody in that moment who was scrutinizing the goodness of God. That such a kind, amazing man would be crucified for having no crime at all. And yet isn't it true that God almighty with his sovereign power, he took the ashes and he created something so beautiful that you and I could trust Jesus Christ and be forgiven of our sin because of what he did in the middle of the story?

Friends, you're in the middle of your story. So keep trusting God until you see how it turns out. The third thing he teaches us, we'll conclude here, is that God uses every season to draw us to him. He uses every season of life in order to draw us to him. You see, even before our very first season on the earth, before anything has been appointed before we were born, it says that God almighty put a homing mechanism within our heart. Notice what it says, verse 11.

He says, also he has put eternity, that's the homing mechanism, into man's heart. That means that we want to know God's eternal plan. We want to live eternally. We don't want to die. We care about heaven. Every culture in the entire world has some category for life after death. God has placed that within our heart. But then notice what he says. He says, "Although he's placed eternity in man's heart yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from beginning to the end."

In other words, he has put eternity in our heart, we want to know. And yet he has put it in in such a way that our eyes, even though we want to know what he's doing from the beginning to the end, we can't find all of it out, it must be revealed. And so he reveals some of it to us, the most important things in order to lead us to him. But he doesn't tell us everything. You see, straining to try to understand God's care and concern for people in the world today is sort of like looking at a tapestry from underneath the loom.

It's looking at the back of a cross stitch. You've probably seen something like this. You turn it over, the top of it, there's some beautiful design. But the very back of it, if this is all you get to see, then you conclude that the artist was not very talented. You conclude that his work was reckless, maybe even uncaring. But the Bible says that one day God is going to flip the loom in our eyes for everyone who is trusted Jesus Christ, that we are going to be able to see the top of the loom.

We're going to be able to see what's on the other side of this. We're going to be able to see the beauty of his entire plan orchestrated for his glory and for our good. And on that day, we will say, "God, you do all things good." And so the question is, why does he make us wait? Why doesn't he just show us the top of the loom now? Well, the only answer I can give you is the answer this revealed, and that's the next verse. Notice what he says.

I perceive that whatever God does endures forever and nothing can be added to it nor anything taken from it. In other words, he says God is sovereign. That's what that means. He does anything, it lasts forever. We can't add to it, we can't take from it. And God has done it and this is why he's done it. So that people fear before him. In other words, he has placed a homing mechanism for eternity within our heart and yet he's not given us the ability to be able to see his eternal plan in order to make us dependent, in order to cause us to fear him, to respect him, to revere, admire, love and worship him, to draw near to him, to care about him, to look to him, to open up his word, to pursue understanding about what he has done.

And what's interesting is this, is there is good news. In verse 15, he says that God is going to tie up all these loose ends. Notice what verse 15 says, that which is already has been, and that which is to be already has been, and God seeks what has been driven away. What does that mean? Well, the word driven away literally means to be chased away. In other words, all those seasons in life that we can't understand, that are so unfitting, we say, "That should not be part of life."

And we just say, "You know what? These things just need to leave." He says that God almighty is going to chase all those things down, he's going to orchestrate, he's going to put them all into the puzzle. So just imagine you're putting together a puzzle and without knowing you knock one of the pieces off into the carpet. You don't know it and so you put together the rest of the puzzle and now there's a hole. And you look around and you think, "Man, there's a hole. It's not built." Like, "Where is it?"

And so what do you do? You begin to seek what has been driven away. You get on your hands and knees and you're looking. And suddenly you find it, you put it in and now the puzzle is complete. And this is what he's saying, is that God is going to insert those pieces that were so unfitting, they were chased away and we will say on that day, "God, it's beautiful." And so his application is actually two verses that we haven't used yet. And it's this, let's enjoy God's gifts even when we can't understand his plan.

Let me encourage you not to lose sight of God's blessings even when you're confused. And this is what we find in verse 13 and verse 14. These were the two that we chased away, let's go ahead and regather them. This is what he says. He says, "I perceive that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live. Also, that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all of his toil. And this is God's gift to man."

In other words, even in the wilderness he invites us. He invites us to look to God and enjoy his gifts, especially his greatest gift. You see, there's so many of us. I know some of you right now, you look at the world and you see it's so broken and so you forbid yourself being able to experience pleasure in life. Maybe right now you're struggling with depression. You actually see things that are broken in the world. You know you can't fix them.

You know that there's good food and there's good drink and there's work and there's things, but you don't allow yourself to enjoy those things because you're saying, "I'm going to hold my joy hostage in these things until I can understand what he's doing in the world." And Solomon teaches us through the inspiration of God's spirit this truth, that in this world, there are God's gifts and then there's also God's ways.

And sometimes we cannot understand his ways. But even when we can't understand his ways, he says, "You know what? It's still okay for you to pause and slow down and enjoy a gift." In other words, when you don't understand everything that's happening in the world, you can still enjoy a good meal. You can still have a good conversation with your spouse, your child. You can still enjoy pleasure and don't remove those things away. You see, but the greatest of his gifts that some people actually put as hostage is Jesus himself.

The greatest gift that he's ever given us is Jesus, because that gift actually enables us to have a heart that's so satisfied that we can then enjoy the rest of his gifts in the way that they were created. John 3:16 says, for God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that's a gift. That whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. See, his greatest gift is knowing Jesus Christ who died and rose again. But you know that Jesus Christ died for you and for me. He rose from the dead because he has authority over all of life.

And there's some of you right now who are holding out belief in Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift to us until you've convinced yourself, until you can understand all the complexities of God's eternal ways. The Bible says that there will be some people who reject Jesus on the earth even though they're curious about him, because they're demanding to understand and have all the answers to life that God has not revealed to us. And I beg you today to trust Jesus Christ.

I urge you today to admit you need a savior, that there's a moral debt that you have with God but Jesus Christ paid that. As the son of God, he came and he died and he rose again. And you confess him as Lord of your life, the Bible says that he will forgive you. And I want you to know that if you want to talk to somebody about Jesus and trusting Jesus, you can send us a text, PBC one and send it to 313131 and we would love the privilege to be able to talk with you.

And for those of us who have trusted Christ, he's given us another gift, a symbolic meal to remember and proclaim our hope in Jesus. And he tells us that we're supposed to take this meal even when the world is in flames. We can't understand everything that's happening in the world, but he says, "I want you to enjoy this gift." And so I hope you have with you the elements of the Lord's Supper. But the Bible tells us this. It says that we're supposed to confess our sin before we take the elements.

So I want to give you a moment right now. I encourage you just to take a few seconds right now, ask God, "God, is there any sin in my life?" Confess it to him so that you can take the supper with a clear conscience. Father in heaven, we thank you for your grace. Grace that's poured out to us in full supply in Jesus Christ. And we confess to you, we don't understand everything, but we do trust your son. Thank you for forgiving us and for giving us the privilege to be able to remember and proclaim what you have done for us. And we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



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