

Things Beautiful and Eternal
Genesis 1:1-5; Ecclesiastes 3:9-22; Acts 17:23-28

0.0 Introduction – *Flash Quiz!*

- 0.1 Recap: all things good in their time (3:11), and joy & goodness < God’s hands (2:24-26):
- 0.2 Thread across Ecc: degrees of joy and happiness, and all things have a shelf life
- 0.3 So, is anything *both* beautiful *and* eternal?

1.0 All Things - Good and Beautiful

- 1.1 It is good to be engaged in your life & environment (v.11) – each item in season
 - “everything beautiful in its time” (v.11a) + eternity in their heart (v.11b)
 - but! (v.11c)
- 1.2 It is good to find enjoyment in your engagements (vv.12-13)
 - “If you find a job you love, you’ll never work a day in your life” (Joe Peters)
- 1.3 It is good that God will assess everyone & everything (vv.16-21)
- 1.4 It really *is* good to find pleasure in your activities right now (v.22)

2.0 Some Things - Beautiful *and* Eternal

- 2.1 God’s activities remain forever (v.14a)
 - “nothing to add to it” = all matters already in his mind and decrees (Ps.148:5-6)
 - you cannot create or invent something not already in God’s imagination
 - Eph.1:4-5 – “according to the pleasure/purpose of his will”
- 2.2 God’s mysteries ought to inspire reverence/fear (vv.14c-15)
- 2.3 “He has set eternity in our hearts” (v.11) → yearning for what we don’t understand
 - hunger for things bigger than ourselves (// Ac.17:27) & we only get partially fed!

3.0 Things We Can Enjoy Right Now

- 3.1 The enormous grace & goodness of God, embodied in Jesus Christ
- 3.2 By contrast: we are in his image but understand so little
- 3.3 The aesthetics of an amazing world, incl. being human (*Imago Dei*)
- 3.4 The value of each task you put your hands on

Next week (June 20) – Guarding My Steps
Ecc.5:1-7; Jn.4:19-26