

Hello. /We will begin the 4th lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /The title of the chapter is "Time." /First, everything in the world has a time and everything changes. /Verses 1-8. /Second, God gives man toiling and he gives them a heart that yearns for eternity. /Verses 9-13.

/Third, life changes, but God will never change. /Verses 14-15. /Fourth, the world's inconsistency and God's righteous judgment. /Verses 16-17. /Fifth, whatever happens to man also happens to beasts. /Verses 18-21. /Sixth, man should rejoice in his work while he lives. /Verse 22

/First, /everything in the world has a time and everything in the world changes. /Verses 1-8.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

/The verse says there is a time for every matter under heaven. /There is a set time for everything in the world. /There is a time for me. /The day of birth and the day of death are already decided. /All these things are in God's plans.

/There is a reason why everything begins and ends. /There comes a time when these purposes are fulfilled. /There are times when people plant trees. /The purpose of planting trees is for the trees to bear fruit. /There is a time when the purpose is fulfilled.

/Therefore, we need to live in the presence of God as we fulfill our purpose. /There is a reason why God created us. /Isaiah 43:7 says that /God created man for his glory. /Isaiah 43:21 says he created us so we would praise him.

/Then, we need to follow our purpose by giving glory to God and praising him. /But if we forget God's will and lean towards our greed, /we cannot fulfill his purpose. /Therefore we believers must live according to the will of God.

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

/Solomon compares two things. /There is a time when a person is born. /There is a time for everything. /There is a time when we are born. /Also, there is a time when we die. /When a person is dying, he cannot fight against death.

/A person cannot say he doesn't want to be born when he is being born. /A person's death is decided at the moment of his birth. /Everyone who is born in this world dies. /Therefore, according to our purpose in life, we must live for God's glory until the day we die.

/Verse 1 says there is a season for everything. /God created us so that we would glorify him. /People plant apple trees to harvest apples.

/The apple tree must bear fruit for people. /Even when we die, we must fulfill our purpose and bear the fruits that bring glory to God. /There is a soccer ball. /Why did people create this soccer ball?

/They made it so they could play soccer. /But can a soccer ball become a baseball? /If it does become a baseball, how could we hit a home run with it? /God made everything with a fitting purpose.

/That is why there is a day when we are born. /There is a day when we die. /Like the Preacher says, we must fulfill our purpose. /There is also a time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted. /In Korea, people plant seeds in the spring.

/Do people harvest grains in the spring? /In Korea, spring is a time for planting. /In fall, people harvest the grains with sickles. /Do people take seeds to the field and plant them in the fall? /Who is foolish enough to do that.

/Therefore, we need to work hard in planting seeds when it is the time for planting. /It is the time when we need to plant. /What should we believers plant? /We need to plant the seed of the gospel. /We are all indebted to the gospel.

/The apostle Paul said himself that he was indebted to the gospel. /In order to pay back our debts, we must work hard to plant the seed of the gospel. /Our Jesus is talking here. /In Matthew 9:35-38, /Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful; but the laborers are few."

/How many poor souls were killed when Sodom was destroyed during Lot's time? /Whether the time is right or not, we need to spread the gospel. /Now is the time for planting. /If we miss this time period, we will not be able to plant.

/The apostle Paul said that if he preaches the gospel, there is nothing to boast /because he is compelled to preach it. /Paul said that it would be woe to him if he did not preach the gospel.

/1 Corinthians 9:16 says, / "For if I preach the gospel, /that gives me no ground for boasting. /For necessity is laid upon me. /Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" /If we do not preach the gospel, we will have to pay with our blood.

/We must plant when it is time for us to plant. /Whether we are given the time or not, we must plant the seeds. /Jesus demands that we pay in blood. /We need to work hard in planting. /Right now, we have the opportunity to preach the gospel.

/Revelation 7:14 says that /the angels are standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds. /The angels are holding back the winds of war. /Why are they holding back the winds? /God is holding back the winds of war so that his chosen people can put the seal on their foreheads.

/Therefore we must always at all times preach the gospel. /Then, there will come a time to pluck. /If we do not plant, there will be nothing for us to pluck.

/Whether we are given the time or not, if we do our best to plant, /we will have much to pluck when it is the time to pluck. /We will harvest many grains when it is the time for harvest. /We must put in our effort to plant seeds. /There is a time for everything. /There is a time for everything to fulfill its purpose. /If we miss the timing, we lose our purpose.

/Verse 3. /a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

/It says there is a time to kill. /There is also a time to heal. /There are times when people are executed. /People die in war. /But the wounded are healed at times. /There was a time when God judged and killed the people of Noah's time.

/There was a time when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and killed the inhabitants. / But there is also a time when God saves lives by sending his gospel to the ends of Samaria. /There is a time for healing. /Some people disliked Jerusalem, so they left for Jericho.

/While they were moving to Jericho, they were robbed. /They lost everything they had. / Who came and found them? It was a good Samaritan. /The good Samaritan found the victims and he treated them.

/The Samaritan put the people on his beast and took them to an inn. /He brought them to the inn and treated them there. /He also said he would pay for the expenses if there was more to pay for. /The person was someone who was supposed to die, but Jesus found him and cured him.

/It was the time for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to be destroyed. /Noah's generation had met its time as well. /Such times are a time for killing. /However, there are times when we must heal in the way the Samaritan healed the person. /We need to heal those whom we can heal.

/There is a time to break down and a time to build up. /There is a time to break down. /There is a time to build up. /One city is well-constructed. /But thirty years later, it will be broken down.

/About thirty years later, the buildings will not be suitable for the times, so they will be broken down and new buildings will be built. /What is the lesson we should learn from this? /There is a time to break down and a time to build up. /There is nothing that is great in this world because there is always something new.

/Verse 4. /a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

/The verse says there is a time to weep and a time to laugh. /Sadness and happiness are two things that always exist in society. /After sadness comes happiness. /After bitterness something sweet certainly comes. /Korea is very cold these days.

/Today, it is a bit warmer. /Like this, there are cold days and warm days. /There are times of sadness, but a time of dancing will come soon. /There is a time for weeping and a time for laughing.

/Verse 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;

/There is a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together. /To build a city, there are times when we must cast stones away. /It is because the stones hinder construction. /But there are stones that are required to build walls.

/Sometimes, people throw stones away, but sometimes, stones are valuable. /Moses, at first, was ostracized by the Israelites. /They said they didn't need Moses. /However, forty years later, Moses became their leader.

/In this way there is a time to throw away and a time to find. /There is a time for embracing and a time to refrain from embracing. /When our children are young, we hug them and kiss them. /But when a fully grown son tries to hug you and kiss you, do you like it? /In this way, there is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.

/Verse 6. /a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

/If there is a time to seek, there is also a time to keep. /There is a time to seek and a time to lose. /There are times when we seek. /But there come times when we lose. /If there is a time to keep, there is a time to cast away.

/When we need furniture for our houses, we buy them. /But when we do not need them anymore, we throw them away. /It is expensive to buy a computer. /However, if the computer is broken, it must be thrown away.

/Several years ago, I bought an expensive computer. /I used it for several years, but it later broke. /I took it to the service center to have it fixed. /But they said they could not fix it.

/Should I have kept the broken computer in my house? /No, it was thrown away. /In this way, there is a time for everything.

/Verse 7. /a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

/There is a time to tear and a time to sew. /There is a time to keep silence and a time to speak. /We need to be silent when it is time to be silent. /We need to be in peace. /When

we are silent, we need to go in an empty room and pray. /When we pray, we are keeping our silence.

/We need to secretly enter an empty room and pray. /When it is time for us to speak, we should speak. /After we pray, we need to go out and preach the gospel. /When we pray, we need to close the door to the world and pray in a secret room.

/It is the place where we meet Jesus. /This is why pastors must not be preaching the gospel all the time. /First, they must find an empty, secret room. /We need to meet Jesus in that secret place. /Where do we meet the Lord?

/Matthew 6:6 says, / “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door /and pray to your Father who is in secret. /And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” /We need to be silent and seek God’s grace.

/Also, when it is time to speak, we must confidently speak. /When we need to evangelize, we need to do our best to evangelize. /When we must say the right words for the right situation, we must say the right words.

/Proverbs 25:11 says, / “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.” / Words fitly spoken are like golden apples on a silver platter. /When we are able to speak, we must speak words that are fit to be spoken. /In this way, there is a time to keep silence and a time to speak.

/Verse 8. /a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

/The verse says there is a time to love and a time to hate. /If people find someone they love, they initially love meeting the person. /Is this love eternal? /Living in marriage, people discover each other’s flaws.

/Then they begin disliking each other. /That is why people say married couples are enemies. /A married couple’s relationship began with love, but as they discover their partner’s flaws, they become enemies. /Of course, this is not the case for everyone. /There is a time we love and a time we hate.

/There is a time for war and a time for peace. /A time for war is a time of killing. /But there will come a time for peace. /Therefore, everything in this world has a time and purpose.

/Thus, God created everything with a time and purpose, and we must live for the glory of God. /Even if something doesn’t work out, /we must believe that there is a time and purpose and we must wait. /Then, there will be a time when our purpose is fulfilled.

/Second, God gives man toiling and a heart that yearns for eternity. /Verses 9-13.

/Verse 9. /What gain has the worker from his toil?

/The verse says, “What gain has the worker from his toil?” /Workers labor in their toiling, but eventually, there is nothing to gain.

/Verse 10. /I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.

/God gave man business. /He made them toil in their lives.

/Verse 11. /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 verse says that God created everything. /God makes things beautiful at the right time. /Particularly, he has put eternity in man's heart. /He gave people a heart that yearns for salvation.

/The most beautiful thing is when we are used for God's work of salvation. /When we are used by God, it is a beautiful thing. /The things of the world change and disappear. /However, being used by God will remain forever.

/1 Peter 1:24-25 say, / “For “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. /The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” /God made us so that we seek eternal life.

/God gave us the amazing grace that allows us to seek God, /to love him, /and to trust in him. /Therefore, we must live for his glory alone.

/Verse 11 says, “So that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” /God manages everything in the world. /However, we do not realize these things.

/God gives some people sickness. /He lets some people die. /He also destroys with warfare. /But we cannot know what he is doing. /He is all-knowing and all-powerful.

/Then what is our duty? /It is being faithful to God. /We need to be faithful before God. /Because he put eternity in our hearts, /we need to be loyal to God.

/The Bible says that stewards of God must be faithful. /Of all the animals, dogs are the most faithful. /They only serve one master. /We are recipients of God's love who are made in the image of God.

/Therefore, we need to be faithful to one master, who is God. /1 Corinthians 4:2 says, / “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” /As people who have been called by God, we must be faithful to him.

/Because we do not know what God is doing, because we cannot measure his deeds, we must be faithful before him.

/Verse 12. /I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live;

/The verse says, “I perceived that there is nothing better for them /than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live.” /Who is making this confession? /Here, the Preacher is confessing. /We are most joyful when we live in the Lord.

/It is most joyful when we do good. /James 4:13-17 say that /if we know the right thing to do but do not do it, we are sinning. /First, doing good /is seeking God.

/Second, it is living according to God’s will. /Third, it is telling others of God and his word.

/If we do not do good, everything else disappears. /How many great works did Solomon do? /He did many works. /He constructed many things. /But he said that it was all like striving after wind.

/Like the message says, there is nothing more joyful than doing good. /Let us read verse 12 again. / “I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live.”

/We are most joyful when we do good. /I hope you all work hard to do good in your lives.

/Verse 13. /also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

/God gave us the pleasure of eating and drinking. /Eating, drinking, and toiling is God’s gift to man. /All these things come from the Lord. /They happen through the Lord.

/If we eat in the Lord, we find joy. /Drinking in the Lord gives us joy. /Enjoying the pleasures of life in the Lord is a true gift. /That is why the hymn says, “Whether in the tabernacle or in the palace, the place where we serve Jesus is heaven.”

/Believers! I hope that you enjoy the pleasures of eating, drinking, and toiling in the Lord. /Working in the Lord is true joy. /There is a painting called “The Angelus” by the painter Millet. /We can learn three things from this painting.

/We can see the sacredness of a married couple. /We can also see the sacredness of religion. /There is also the sacredness of labor. /It is a great joy for believers to be able to toil in the Lord. /We should work hard in the Lord at what he has given us to do, and /let us eat /and drink well.

/Third, life changes, but God never changes. /Verse 14-15.

/Verse 14. /I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

/Life changes, but God does not change. /Whatever God does endures forever. /God will never change throughout eternity. /There are times when people love and times when they hate. /But God only loves people; he does not hate.

/Also, God will be with us until the end of the world. /When the world passes and forgets who we are, only God will not abandon us. /John 13:1 says, / “Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come /to depart out of this world to the Father, /having loved his own /who were in the world, /he loved them to the end.”

/God loves us to the end. /His character never changes. /He is our Lord, the one who does not change. /His kingdom is eternal.

/Verse 15. /That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

/The verse says, “That which is, already has been.” /What is to come has already been in the past. /It says that God seeks what has been driven away. /The things that were exist today.

/Everything that God created remains the way they are. /Politics is the same as it was in the past. /The way people love each other today had existed in the past. /Children serving their parents was a thing of the past, but it is present today.

/Fathers loved their children in the past and they love their children today. /People change, but the things of God do not change. /The things of the world may change, but God does not change. /2 Corinthians 5:17 says that /we are a new creation.

/Fourth, /the world’s inconsistency and God’s righteous judgment. /Verses 16-17.

/Verse 16. /Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

/The verse says, “Moreover, I saw under the sun /that in the place of justice, /even there was wickedness.” /Everywhere in the world, there is illegal activity. /There is wickedness in a world that does not know God.

/Only God is good. /Something is only good when it is consistent with the word of God.

/Verse 17. /I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

/The verse says, “I said in my heart, /God will judge the righteous and the wicked.” /It says, “For there is a time for every matter and for every work.” /Because Sodom was full of sin, God judged the city.

/God judged Noah’s generation. /But he rescued those who were righteous. /In this way, God waits patiently until his purpose is fulfilled.

/Verse 18. /I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.

/Fifth, whatever happens to man happens to the beasts. /Verses 18-21.

/Verse 18 says, / “I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them /that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. /People are made to realize that they are no different than beasts.

/When we look at humans in their flesh, their flesh is the same as that of the beasts. /When beasts die, they return to dust, and when humans die, we too return to dust.

/Verse 19. /For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity.

/What happens to man and what happens to beasts is the same. /For this reason, man and beast are not that different. /Verse 19 tells us this. /Whatever happens to man happens to beasts.

/It says that whatever happens is the same for both. /They all have the same breath. /Beasts die, and humans die. /Because both eventually die, humans and animals are the same. /This is referring to people who do not have God. /It means that people all die in this way.

/Verse 20. /All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.

/The verse says that all are from dust, and to dust all return. /All of our lives will return to the dust. /But what happens to the souls that are saved? They go into the presence of God.

/Verse 21. /Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?

/It says that the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth. /The beasts disappear into the earth. /However, those who believe in God and are saved /will have their souls be with God.

/Beasts disappear when they die. /Human corpses also go into the earth, are broken down, and become dust. /At the moment of our deaths, the bodies of believers decay, but our souls go before God.

/Also, when Jesus returns to the earth, the believers will be resurrected. /We may have had sown weak bodies, but when we are raised from the dead, our bodies are strong. /We may have been sown in flesh, but when we rise again, we will be in spiritual form.

/We will be resurrected as spiritual beings. /Our bodies will be able to transcend time and space. /We will be able to travel anywhere very quickly. /We have been blessed with such amazing things.

/The Preacher discussed the humans and animals in their flesh. /There is nothing significant about the flesh. /The bodies of men and beasts rot away. /Everything physical in this world will rot away.

/The souls created in the image of God /will go before God. /And when they resurrect from the dead, /their weakness will change into something strong. /The body of flesh will be resurrected as a spiritual body.

/What is sown is perishable, but what is raised is imperishable. /What is sown in dishonor will be raised in glory. /1 Corinthians 15:42-44 say this. /Where do believers go when they die? They go to heaven.

/When we believers die, we move to the house that God has built. /2 Corinthians 4:18. /2 Corinthians 5:1.

/Sixth, man should rejoice in this world while he lives.

/Verse 22. /So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

/While we live, we must rejoice in the mission that is given to us. /It is a true blessing for us to rejoice and toil in the work that God has given us. /We need to give thanks, work hard, and find pleasure in the work that God has left us.

/This ends the 4th lecture. /Thank you.