

Solomon's Secret

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ecclesiastes.
- B. Ecclesiastes teaches the secret of contentment.
- C. Ecclesiastes was the greatest experiment in successful living ever attempted.

II. Enjoyment is from the hand of God.

III. There is a right time for opposite things.

A. There are two centers of consciousness—the spirit and the soul. The ministry of the Word is to distinguish between these. (Hebrews 4)

B. The first set of opposites relates to the body.

- 1. There are boundaries to life that no one can escape.
- 2. There is a cycle for planting and nourishment.
- 3. There is a process of decay and healing in our bodies.
- 4. There is a time for strengthening and breaking down for the body.

C. The second set of opposites deals with the soul—our relationships with others.

- 1. There is a time for proper rejoicing.
- 2. There is a time to build up relationships.
- 3. There is a time to support people and a time to say no.

D. The third set of opposites deals with the spirit.

- 1. Most of the problems in our life relate to our spirits.
- 2. There is a time to seek new friends and a time to let them go.
- 3. There is a time to tear up old things and build up new things.
- 4. There is a time for silence and a time to speak up.
- 5. There is a time to love our enemies and friends and a time to hate the flesh, cruelty, etc.

6. There is a time for war and a time for peace.

IV. Principles that reveal what is left in everything.

A. The business of man is to live life.

B. God has made everything beautiful in its time

1. Everything is right in its time.

2. We do not like negative experiences but God does—God makes us do what we do not want to do in order to make us be what we do not want to be.

C. God has put eternity into man's heart.

1. God speaks to the deep hunger in the human heart.

2. We must remember that we are not animals—we long for something more.

D. There is a mystery about the world and God that remains. We must learn to live life as a little child and trust the Father accordingly.

V. God's intention for man is...

A. Joy.

B. Respect for Him, which should cause us to discover Him.

C. To bring back what has already been. He repeats His lessons to us until we get them straight.

Application questions:

1. How might it help someone to know that there is balance in many things?

2. Which set of opposites stands out to you? What strikes you?

3. Why are negative things important for the life of the believer? Explain.
