



# BETTER

## Managing the Unmanageable

#npbetter

# Week 3

## 3 of 12

June 21, 2020

**Bottom Line:** God is the author of time.

**Icebreaker:** What is your go-to reaction when your plans go catawampus? Does it help or hinder you and others? Share an epic derailing.

**Key Verse:** *He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.* Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV

You don't have to be in the adulting phase of life too long before you realize what Solomon discovered. No matter who you are, life just cannot be controlled. What then? How do you manage the unmanageable, the irritations, the inconveniences, the illnesses, the delays, when life refuses to follow your scheduled direction?

Solomon shared what he learned he *could* do when life was derailed. **Accept the good and the bad times.** God does nothing by accident. Solomon examines 28 *times* in life: 14 negative and 14 positive. All is appropriate and beautiful in its time. Life is a combination. **Trust God in confusing times.** We only see the current situation, but God sees the result. In the difficult and confusing times, we see the painful process, God sees the finished product. Affirm God's sovereignty—things aren't as bad as they seem. **Utilize your time to do good.** Learn to think of others. God did not create you just to live for yourself. He designed for us to spend our lives doing good. Making a difference. We have no guarantee of the future. Utilize the present to do good. **Value all your time as a gift from God.** There are two basic things to do with your life: Be happy and do good. While you're doing good, you get to enjoy life. Each day is an unmerited gift from God—live it with gratitude. I have just enough time to do God's will. Learn to be content in all of life. This season I'm in may not be one I like, but it's a season. **Be prepared to give an account of your time.** God will call the past to account. We'd better be ready. God will evaluate us according to how we spent our time because time is the most valuable commodity we have, far more important than money. Money is a renewable resource—we can always get more of it somewhere. But we only have a certain amount of time. If you're killing time, you're killing your life. That is what your life is made of. If you have invited Jesus Christ into your heart and life and accepted His forgiveness for your sins through what He did on the cross, you will not be judged for your sins when you stand before God. You will be evaluated not on your sins but your service. The evaluation is for the purpose of rewarding you. Use your time to be happy, do good, and trust God.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you particularly from the message?

God doesn't do anything by accident. God has a purpose, plan, and even a time behind everything that happens. It's not accidental. Everything is on God's timetable. Does this thought comfort or frustrate you? Why?

There is a time to plant and a time to uproot. Has God ever uprooted you when you were not ready? What happened? Have you been able yet to see His plan?

Everything is not beautiful, but "God makes everything beautiful **in its time.**" So many things seem inappropriate or far from beautiful when they happen. How can you encourage someone who is in a time that seems all wrong?

If you don't accept and affirm your trust in God in these times of confusion, you will tend to resist, resent, reject, and react to all that God's doing. This is a major cause of rejecting faith. Do you know someone in this situation? Reflect on this. Discuss how to help them.

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

Good works do not save us, but God created us to do them. How can you explain the difference between faith and works when both are necessary?

There are two things to do with your life: Do good and be happy. How have you discovered the connection? How are you fulfilling that in life right now?

It's encouraging to know God wants us to enjoy His gift of life. COVID-19 has challenged us in that area. What are you doing to up the enjoyment now?

"I have just enough time to do what God wants me to do." What does that mean to you?

Being happy, doing good, not wasting time, remembering we will give an account of how we spent our time—we can allow this to make us live under a shadow, with constant guilt. How can we get it right and live with peace and satisfaction, knowing God is pleased?

## NEXT STEPS

1. Renew your commitment to trust God always. If you are committed before times are confusing and difficult, it will be much easier.
2. Evaluate the way you are handling life. Are you investing your life in doing good or wasting time?
3. Intentionally add enjoyment and service in each day.

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** God is the author of time.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Psalm 31:14-15a

Tuesday: Jeremiah 29:11

Wednesday: Proverbs 3:27; James 4:17

Thursday: Romans 14:12-13

Friday: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*