



OCTOBER 2019

# Hemyock *Baptist Church*

As we move into Autumn, we are reminded that:

“For everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” *Eccl. 3:1*

Adam and Eve called their second son Abel, and provided King Solomon with the key word for Ecclesiastes – the Hebrew *hebel* means ‘vanity’ and appears in Ecclesiastes 38 times. Solomon examined multiple aspects of life to see if it was worth living, and the more he thought, the more he was driven to the conclusion that life had no meaning; it was vanity. As early as 2:17, this man who had so much knowledge and power declared that he “hated life”. We can sometimes feel that way too, but the simple verse above provides three truths, enabling us to look at life more positively.

We experience a *sequence of events* in life – Solomon calls them ‘seasons’ and ‘times’. God is eternal and has placed eternity in our hearts (3:11), which explains our dissatisfaction with ‘things’ and ‘events’ and our deep longing for something more. That something more is of course the abundant life (John 10:10) that we find only in Jesus and the salvation he brings. When Solomon does mention enjoying life, it’s about enjoying the earthly experience of working, eating & drinking, family relationships – all good things, but nothing that prepares us for death and eternity, the only true preparation for that is knowing Jesus.

*Events* do however help us accomplish God’s purposes. Scientists and historians try to discover purpose in the universe but fail to do so when they leave God out of the equation. We see only a sequence of events over time and fail to see the big picture. God sees it all as he works his purposes out, and even when we wonder what he is doing, we can turn to Romans 8:28 and know that all things work for our good and his glory. Christians live on promises, not explanations. As Jesus said to Peter, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this” (John 13:7). As we pray the Father’s will be done, we ask for fulfilment rather than reasons!

*God purposes come from his loving heart.* Consider Psalm 33:10-11 and rejoice! The Lord has purposes for nations and individuals alike, purposes that will be fulfilled. Each of us can claim the words of Psalm 138:8, “The Lord will work out his plans for my life – for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever. Don’t abandon me, for you made me” (NLT). All too often we rush to get *our* will done *now* instead of waiting on the Lord’s. Abraham & Sarah waited 25 years for their promised son Isaac, Joseph waited 13 years to rise to power in Egypt – both were expressions of God’s love and fulfilment of his good plan. “Wait, I say, on the Lord!” *Psalm 27:14.*



**Fun-time  
Fridays are  
back!**

**Messy Church** returns with a new full programme for the academic year from next month! With even more food, crafts, songs & fun than ever, we look forward to seeing you on the following **Fridays from 4-6pm...**

**1<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

**13<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**17<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**10<sup>th</sup> July 2020**